

# LONDON- WEST MIDLANDS ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT

## Volume 5 | Technical Appendices

CFA11 | Stoke Mandeville and Aylesbury  
**Baseline report (CH-001-011)**  
Cultural heritage

November 2013

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Department  
for Transport

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High Speed Two (HS2) Limited,  
Eland House,  
Bressenden Place,  
London SW1E 5DU

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# Contents

<b>1</b>	<b>Introduction</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1	Structure of the cultural heritage appendices	1
1.2	Content and scope	1
1.3	Study area	1
1.4	Data sources	1
1.5	Surveys undertaken	2
<b>2</b>	<b>Geology, topography and landform</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Archaeological and historical background</b>	<b>4</b>
3.1	Introduction	4
3.2	Early prehistory (circa 500,000 - 1,500 BC)	4
3.3	Later prehistory (circa 1,500 BC - AD 43)	7
3.4	Romano-British (AD 43 - 410)	9
3.5	Early medieval (AD 410 - 1066)	11
3.6	Medieval (1066 - 1539)	14
3.7	Post-medieval (1539 - 1900)	18
3.8	Twentieth century/modern (1900 - present)	19
3.9	Selected archaeological sites within and immediately adjacent to the land required, temporarily or permanently, for construction of the Proposed Scheme	20
<b>4</b>	<b>Built heritage</b>	<b>24</b>
4.2	Built heritage assets within the land required, temporarily or permanently, for the construction of the Proposed Scheme	24
4.3	Built heritage assets within 500m of the boundary of the land required for construction of the Proposed Scheme	26
4.4	Selected designated built heritage assets within the ZTV	38
<b>5</b>	<b>Historic map regression</b>	<b>39</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Historic landscape</b>	<b>40</b>
6.1	Aylesbury Vale Environmental Character Assessment	40
6.2	Historic parks and gardens	44
6.3	Important hedgerows	52

<b>7</b>	<b>Archaeological character</b>	<b>53</b>
7.1	Introduction	53
7.2	Character areas	53
7.3	Archaeological sub-zones	56
<b>8</b>	<b>Analysis and research potential</b>	<b>65</b>
8.1	Analysis of understanding	65
8.2	Research potential and priorities	66
<b>9</b>	<b>Information sources</b>	<b>69</b>
9.1	References	69
9.2	Cartographic sources	72
9.3	Other sources	73

## List of tables

Table 1: Archaeological sub zones	57
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# 1 Introduction

## 1.1 Structure of the cultural heritage appendices

1.1.1 The cultural heritage appendices for the Stoke Mandeville to Aylesbury community forum area (CFA11) comprise:

- baseline reports (this appendix);
- a gazetteer of heritage assets (Volume 5: Appendix CH-002-011);
- an impact assessment (Volume 5: Appendix CH-003-011); and
- survey reports (Volume 5: Appendix CH-004-011);

1.1.2 Maps referred to throughout the cultural heritage appendices are contained in the Volume 5, Cultural Heritage Map Book.

## 1.2 Content and scope

1.2.1 This baseline provides the evidence base against which the assessment of assets that may be affected by the construction of the Proposed Scheme can be determined. It contains information about known and potential heritage assets from a variety of sources and presents a chronological description and discussion of the development of the study area, placing assets within their historical and archaeological context.

## 1.3 Study area

1.3.1 CFA 11 lies within the Aylesbury Vale District of Buckinghamshire and comprises parts of the civil parishes of Ellesborough, Stoke Mandeville, Weston Turville, Great and Little Kimble cum Marsh, Stone with Bishopstone and Hartwell, Aylesbury, Coldharbour, Waddesdon, Fleet Marston and Quarrendon.

1.3.2 All non-designated and designated assets within the land required for construction of the Proposed Scheme and within 500m of it have been detailed in this baseline assessment. In addition, designated heritage assets have been examined within the zone of theoretical visibility (ZTV).

1.3.3 All identified assets are listed in Volume 5: Appendix CH-002-011 and shown on Maps CH-01-034 to CH-01-036 and CH-02-017 to CH-02-018 (Volume 5, Cultural Heritage Map Book).

## 1.4 Data sources

1.4.1 Sources examined as part of this baseline assessment include published secondary sources, cartographic sources, historic environment record (HER) data for non-designated heritage assets and English Heritage National Heritage List data for designated assets. A full list of published sources can be found in Section 10 of this appendix.

## 1.5 Surveys undertaken

1.5.1 The following surveys were undertaken as part of the environmental impact assessment (EIA) process:

- light detection and ranging (LiDAR)<sup>1</sup> survey of the majority of the land required for construction of the Proposed Scheme and land around it (see Volume 5: Appendix CH-004-011);
- hyperspectral survey of the majority of the land around the land the Proposed Scheme (see Volume 5: Appendix CH-004-011); and
- a programme of non-intrusive surveys including geophysical prospection and fieldwalking (see Volume 5: Appendix CH-004-011);

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<sup>1</sup> A remote sensing survey technique using lasers to produce 3D mapping of terrain.

## 2 Geology, topography and landform

- 2.1.1 The Stoke Mandeville and Aylesbury area lies at the foot of the Chiltern scarp on the interface between the Greensand bench to the south and east and the claylands of the Vale of Aylesbury to the north and west.
- 2.1.2 The underlying bedrock geology of the study area comprises a succession of rock groups banded from north-west to south-east and spanning the Middle to Late Jurassic (to north-west) and Early Cretaceous periods. In the area of Stoke Mandeville the underlying strata is predominantly the Blue Marl of the Gault Formation of Cretaceous date which overlies the Portland Stone and Purbeck strata of later Jurassic date. The Portland and Purbeck formations are the underlying geology between Walton Court and Hartwell and form a low ridge on which Bishopstone, Stone and Eythrope Park stand. At Hartwell the proposed route passes onto the Kimmeridge Clay of Jurassic date before passing to the north of Putlowes onto the Oxford Clay of mid-Jurassic date which predominates in the Vale of Aylesbury.
- 2.1.3 The superficial geology of the study area is somewhat more varied being derived from Quaternary alluvial and river terrace deposits associated with the River Thame with some Head and Till. Terrace deposits outcrop on the flanks of the Thame Valley and its tributaries at Walton Court, near Hartwell, near Haydon Mill and at Putlowes. Head deposits cap these on higher ground at Hartwell, Whaddon Hill and near Eythrope. Glaciofluvial deposits and Till of mid-Pleistocene date form an area of slightly higher ground at Putlowes and Fleet Marston.
- 2.1.4 Flandrian alluvial deposits are present within the floodplain of the River Thame and its tributaries. The route broadly follows one of these tributary valley systems between Stoke Mandeville and Hartwell before crossing the River Thame near Putlowes.
- 2.1.5 The topography of the study area is generally gently undulating with the route following a shallow valley between the slightly higher ground to the north on which Aylesbury stands and the low ridge on which Bishopstone, Stone and Eythrope stand to the south.
- 2.1.6 Human activity through all periods in this study area is likely to have been concentrated on more easily worked and better drained soils, particularly over the Terrace Gravels and better draining upper slopes adjacent to, or within tributary valleys draining to the River Thame and thence to the Thames. Typical locations for human activity of all periods within the study area are within the tributary valley system between Walton Court and Bishopstone, on the flanks of the higher ground at Hartwell, on the southern flanks of the River Thame near Haydon Mill, on the northern flank of the River Thame at Putlowes and Billingsfield and flanking the tributary valley of the River Thame extending north past Putlowes and Fleet Marston.
- 2.1.7 The potential for waterlogged deposits and/or palaeoenvironmental remains exists within the study area, especially where the route crosses alluvium and terrace gravel deposits within the Thame Valley and its tributaries. The alluvial deposits associated with the River Thame and its tributaries also have the potential to mask any archaeological assets.



## 3 Archaeological and historical background

### 3.1 Introduction

- 3.1.1 This section provides a chronological overview of the archaeological evidence within the study area. This baseline review forms a contextualisation within which individual assets can be considered. Descriptions of all archaeological assets, whether designated or not, which lie wholly or partially within land required for the construction of the Proposed Scheme or within 500m of the edge of the land required, temporarily or permanently for construction of the Proposed Scheme are contained in the Gazetteer in Volume 5: Appendix CH-002-011. The assets are mapped on Maps CH-01-033 to CH-01-036 (Volume 5, Cultural Heritage Map Book). The Gazetteer also considers all designated archaeological assets within the ZTV. The Gazetteer entries include assessments of value where appropriate.

### 3.2 Early prehistory (circa 500,000 - 1,500 BC)

- 3.2.1 The known Palaeolithic resource within the study area is closely related to the superficial (drift) geology and the depositional processes which formed it. These depositional processes are closely associated with climatic conditions and in particular climatic oscillations during which large parts of the British landscape was covered by ice sheets, punctuated by relatively short-lived interglacials, when climatic and erosional conditions were similar to those today<sup>2</sup>. During the Anglian Glaciation circa 480,000 – 420,000 years ago, an ice cap reached as far south as parts of Buckinghamshire and the outskirts of modern London. South of this ice cap was a landscape of tundra, dissected by vast braided rivers.
- 3.2.2 The Lower and Middle Palaeolithic periods witnessed the first appearance of early hominins circa 500,000 years ago, and the appearance of anatomically modern humans around 40,000 years ago. This arrival of anatomically modern humans defines the beginning of the Upper Palaeolithic. Evidence for Palaeolithic hominin and human activity is informed by the presence of stone tools and far less commonly, by organic remains, such as butchered bones, wooden tools and palaeoenvironmental remains. The majority of such finds derive from fluvial sands and gravels<sup>3</sup>. Palaeolithic remains moved by fluvio-glacial action could also be present within Head deposits which can be found within the River Thames and its tributary valley systems, principally at Hartwell and to the south of Putlowes.
- 3.2.3 Human activity throughout this period is characterised by small bands of hunter gatherers exploiting resources generally within a tundra landscape. In so doing they seldom established long-term sites, although sites have been identified that were possibly used as seasonal hunting camps.

<sup>2</sup> Silva, B. & Farr, L., 2010, Earliest Buckinghamshire. In: *An Illustrated History of Early Buckinghamshire*, Farley, M. (ed), Buckinghamshire Archaeological Society, Aylesbury.

<sup>3</sup> Silva, B., (2008), *An Archaeological Resource Assessment of the Lower and Middle Palaeolithic in Buckinghamshire*. Prepared for the Solent-Thames Research Framework Resource Assessment: The Lower / Middle Palaeolithic Period.

- 3.2.4 Human activity throughout the Palaeolithic in this area is likely to have been concentrated on higher ground adjacent to, or within the Thame Valley or its tributaries. Such locations would have been attractive to early hominim and human populations seeking to exploit the resources available across a range of habitats and environments.
- 3.2.5 Palaeolithic faunal remains including fragments from mammoth, woolly rhinoceros, hippopotamus, bear and hyena have been recovered during 19th and early 20th century quarrying at Locke's Pit between Walton Court and Hartwell (SMAo42)<sup>4</sup>. It is possible that these remains could have been in-situ within a primary context in the terrace gravels<sup>5</sup>.
- 3.2.6 A single Upper Palaeolithic flint flake (SMAo34) is recorded from within the study area. This is likely to have been reworked into Head deposits, but was recovered in fields over Purbeck Limestone, so had probably migrated over time from its point of origin. This area lies on sloping ground overlooking a shallow valley and would be a typical location from which Late Palaeolithic and Mesolithic hunter/gatherers may have exploited the local resources.
- 3.2.7 The Mesolithic (circa 10,000 - 4,000 BC) period begins with the end of the last glaciation and retreat of the ice sheets from Britain. For the earlier part of this period Britain was still attached to continental Europe by a plain extending across the North Sea; as the ice sheets melted this became flooded severing the connection. Following the end of the last glaciation there was a period of rapid warming lasting from around 9,500 to 6,900 BC during which the landscape of southern Britain became dominated by woodland of juniper, pine and birch. This was followed by a period from circa 6,900 BC during which a climate broadly comparable to today's became established and with it the development of extensive deciduous woodland dominated by oak and hazel with alder carr developing in wetlands and river valleys<sup>6</sup>.
- 3.2.8 Human activity throughout this period continues to be characterised by small bands of hunter gatherers exploiting resources within a predominantly woodland landscape. There is increasing evidence that long term seasonal and even semi-permanent sites were established from which the resources of a region could be exploited. Towards the end of the Mesolithic there is some evidence across Southern England for small scale exploitation of clearings for a limited amount of horticulture and potentially management of woodlands through deliberate clearance by fire to create improved hunting grounds<sup>7</sup>.
- 3.2.9 Evidence for Mesolithic activity is usually restricted to scatters of bone, flint and other stone artefacts present within plough soil and subsoil. During the latter part of the Mesolithic period there is also evidence that crudely fired pottery was also coming into use<sup>8</sup>. The location of these scatters can provide information on routes being used

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<sup>4</sup>Farley, M., (2009), *Discoveries of Ice Age mammals and other Pleistocene deposits from central and northern Buckinghamshire*.

<sup>5</sup>Farley, M., (2009)

<sup>6</sup>Sidell, J., Wilkinson, K. & Cameron, N. (2000), *The Holocene Evolution of the London Thames*. MOLAS Monograph 5.

<sup>7</sup>Simmons, I. (1996), *The Environmental Impact of Later Mesolithic Cultures: Creation of Moorland Landscape in England and Wales*, Edinburgh University Press, Edinburgh.

<sup>8</sup>Mithen, S., (1994), *The Mesolithic Age*, In Cunliffe, B (ed.) *The Oxford Illustrated Prehistory of Europe*, Oxford University, Oxford.

to access natural resources and the location of seasonal working and camping sites. Typically Mesolithic activity is identified where well drained soils cover upper slopes above watercourses. Locations on higher ground, and especially on low lying ridges, at a woodland edge would have provided a good location from which to watch for and hunt game. Routes along river valleys and prominent ridge lines/escarpments would also probably have been used to move between different hunting territories and resource zones. Mesolithic evidence has been recorded between Walton Court and Bishopstone (SMA034).

- 3.2.10 The Neolithic (circa 4,000 BC - 2,400 BC) period sees the import to Britain of domesticated animals including sheep and cattle and the increasing use of domesticated wheat and new styles of pottery as well as evidence for relatively long distance trade contact to source raw materials. This period also sees an increasing importance placed on the treatment of the dead with burials and ritual sites becoming an important facet of the archaeological record.
- 3.2.11 The emphasis on ritual and the increased clearance of woodland suggests an increasing population with an associated development of an intra-communal society. By the beginning of the Bronze Age there is evidence for the development of an increasingly hierarchical society with higher status individuals being buried (often with grave goods) within round barrows. This development can often be related to the introduction of a new pottery style (Beakers) and the introduction of metalworking of copper, gold and bronze.
- 3.2.12 There remains no clear evidence for widespread clearance of woodland for arable cultivation during the Neolithic period and it is likely that Neolithic populations continued to follow a broadly nomadic life but clearing woodland glades to improve hunting, establish small areas of horticulture and to pasture herds/flocks.
- 3.2.13 Neolithic settlement activity across southern England appears to be at best episodic and can often be identified by the deposition of middens containing food refuse and pottery<sup>9</sup>. Typically such evidence is found on slopes overlooking watercourses as was usual during the Mesolithic period<sup>10</sup>.
- 3.2.14 The Neolithic and Early Bronze Age periods in the Buckinghamshire region appear to differ somewhat from the Thames Valley and Wessex to the south in their relative lack of identified ceremonial and burial monuments and complexes, such as mortuary enclosures, long barrows, causewayed enclosures, henge monuments, cursuses and round barrow cemeteries<sup>11</sup>.
- 3.2.15 The Greensand bench appears to have been a focus for Neolithic and Early Bronze Age settlement activity. Sites of these periods may be expected on well drained slopes overlooking watercourses. Typically settlement evidence of later Neolithic and Early Bronze Age date typically comprises the buried remains of shallow pits or scrapes and

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<sup>9</sup> Allen, T., Barclay, A. & Lamdin-Whymark, H., (2004), Opening the wood, making the land. The study of a Neolithic landscape in the Dorney Area of the Middle Thames Valley. In: *In Towards a New Stone Age*.

<sup>10</sup> Hey, G. and Barclay, A. (2007), *The Thames Valley in the fifth and early fourth millennium cal BC: The appearance of domestication and the evidence for change*, Proceedings of the British Academy 144.

<sup>11</sup> Oxford Archaeology and Buckinghamshire CC et al. Ongoing: *Solent Thames Research Framework: A framework for Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire, Hampshire and the Isle of Wight*.

burnt mounds (piles of fire cracked stone/pebble with charcoal). Much evidence for the Neolithic and Early Bronze Age periods may have been lost through slope erosion or buried under later colluvium.

- 3.2.16 Evidence for Neolithic activity has been demonstrated through finds made during archaeological investigations to the south of Stoke Mandeville Hospital (SMA027); from fieldwalking between Walton Court and Bishopstone (SMA034); investigations at Walton Court (SMA035) and near Coldharbour Farm (SMA058 and SMA059).
- 3.2.17 At Coldharbour Farm (SMA058) the excavated evidence included pits and clusters of pits containing Neolithic pottery and flint tools and debitage (waste flint flakes). There were also a number of pits identified as the hollows left by tree falls that may have been used as working hollows. Palaeoenvironmental evidence from the site strongly suggested that the area was cleared of woodland during the Neolithic period with some re-establishment of scrub<sup>12</sup>.

### 3.3 Later prehistory (circa 1,500 BC - AD 43)

- 3.3.1 The Middle Bronze Age (circa 1,500–1,100 BC) through to the later Iron Age (circa 400 BC – AD 43) is the period during which evidence and the associated evidence for agricultural practices and land division becomes more visible in the archaeological record.
- 3.3.2 From the Middle Bronze Age settlement became more permanent, usually as single farmsteads only large enough to accommodate a single family unit<sup>13</sup>. A typical later prehistoric settlement in Southern England may include buried evidence for at least one roundhouse in the form of a circular gully with postholes and associated features such as an enclosure ditch, ditched fields, paddocks and trackways.
- 3.3.3 Larger scale societal divisions may well have been present but are not clear cut until the introduction of tribal coinages in the late 1st century BC. There is little evidence for any centralisation in the Late Bronze Age (circa 1,100 BC –700 BC) and Early Iron Age (circa 700 BC –400 BC) except for a small number of hillforts on the Chiltern scarp and the establishment of a valley fort at Aylesbury in the Middle Iron Age (circa 400 BC – 100 BC).
- 3.3.4 Later prehistoric Buckinghamshire was placed in the Eastern Zone by Cunliffe<sup>14</sup> and therefore has more in common with East Anglia rather than the Thames Valley. Settlement in this area is typified by undefended open and village like settlements with few hillforts. By the 1st century BC it lay within the western part of the territory of the *Catuvellauni*<sup>15</sup> a tribal grouping with a powerbase centred in the St Albans area and who held territory including much of Buckinghamshire, Hertfordshire, Bedfordshire and the western side of Cambridgeshire. The western boundary of the *Catuvellauni* is believed to have rested along the line of the Cherwell with their southern boundary on the River Thames.

<sup>12</sup> Bonner, D. & Parkhouse, (1997), *Investigations at the prehistoric site at Coldharbour Farm, Aylesbury 1996*. Records of Buckinghamshire. Aylesbury

<sup>13</sup> Kidd, S., (2009), *Buckinghamshire Late Bronze Age and Iron Age: Historic Environment Resource Assessment*.

<sup>14</sup> Cunliffe, B., (2009), *Iron Age Communities in Britain* (4th Edition), Routledge, London.

<sup>15</sup> Cunliffe, B., (2009)

- 3.3.5 There is extensive evidence for Middle Bronze Age through to Late Iron Age settlement and agricultural systems in the Aylesbury area, with important settlements having been identified at Aston Clinton<sup>16</sup>, Bierton<sup>17</sup> and within Aylesbury<sup>18</sup>. At Aston Clinton and Bierton open settlements were associated with field systems and trackways. A valley fort (hill fort in a lowland location) is located within the centre of Aylesbury and may represent the focus of an Iron Age territory.
- 3.3.6 The area extending along the foot of the Chilterns has long been believed to have been the location of a low level prehistoric routeway called the Icknield Way, which linked the Thames Valley and Berkshire Downs to the south with East Anglia to the north-east. The existence of this routeway has now been questioned and no archaeological evidence for it has been noted from any recent investigations across its postulated alignment<sup>19</sup>.
- 3.3.7 It is posited that many of the roads, bridleways and other routeways that extend from the Greensand bench up the Chiltern scarp and onto the Chiltern plateau may have very early (in many cases prehistoric) origins<sup>20</sup>. Excavated evidence for this has been identified during the archaeological investigations undertaken for the Aston Clinton Bypass<sup>21</sup>. Evidence for Akeman Street, the Roman road from St Albans (Verulamium) to Cirencester (Corinium) was also identified climbing onto the Chiltern plateau at Aston Clinton.
- 3.3.8 The area at the foot of the Chilterns has been identified as an intensively occupied zone from at least the prehistoric period onwards. Recent archaeological investigations, including those at Aston Clinton, have only served to confirm this. Extensive areas of later prehistoric settlement and agricultural systems are suggested along the route as it passes to the south of Aylesbury by findspots from fieldwalking and evidence recovered during archaeological investigations. These include excavated evidence from Ellen Road (SMA055)<sup>22</sup>, Coldharbour Farm (SMA058)<sup>23</sup>, south of Stoke Mandeville Hospital (SMA027) and at Walton Court (SMA035). Finds of Bronze Age through to Iron Age date have also been made during fieldwalking between Walton Court and Bishopstone (SMA034) and recovered during clay extraction at Locke's Pit (SMA042).
- 3.3.9 At Berryfields, just to the north of Aylesbury Vale Parkway and the A41, a prehistoric settlement has been recorded. This comprised a series of enclosures with associated pits, hearths and a trackway organised around at least three roundhouses. Bronze Age pottery was recovered, suggesting that the site may have origins in this period, although the majority of the evidence dated to the Iron Age. At least one of the roundhouses lay partially under another suggesting a relatively prolonged period of

<sup>16</sup> RPS Consultants, (2005), *Archaeological investigations for the Aston Clinton Bypass, Buckinghamshire*.

<sup>17</sup> Allen, D., (1986), *Excavations at Bierton, 1979: A late 'Belgic' settlement and evidence for a Roman villa and a twelfth to eighteenth century manorial complex*, Records of Buckinghamshire 28.

<sup>18</sup> Allen, D., (1983), *Iron Age occupation, a Middle Saxon cemetery and twelfth to nineteenth century urban occupation. Excavations in George Street, Aylesbury 1981*, Records of Buckinghamshire 25.

<sup>19</sup> Farley, M., (2010), *An Illustrated History of early Buckinghamshire*, Buckinghamshire Archaeological Society, Aylesbury.

<sup>20</sup> Bull, E.J., (1993), *The bi-axial landscape of prehistoric Buckinghamshire*. Records of Buckinghamshire 35 11-18.

<sup>21</sup> RPS Consultants, (2005)

<sup>22</sup> Buckinghamshire County Museum Archaeological Service (1997), *An Archaeological Evaluation at Ellen Road, Aylesbury*.

<sup>23</sup> Bonner, D. & Parkhouse, (1997)

settlement<sup>24</sup>. Later prehistoric activity has also been identified at Quarrendon and Billingsfield (SMA077) and at Fleet Marston (SMA074).

- 3.3.10 Fieldwalking and geophysical survey (Volume 5: Appendix CH-004-011 (IBoAC)) indicate the presence of a relatively complex settlement site to the south of Walton Court (SMA034). The geophysical survey indicates the presence of linear features and enclosures occupying a spur of slightly higher ground between two watercourses.
- 3.3.11 Geophysical survey (has also revealed the presence of two curvilinear enclosures just to the south of the A41 at Fleet Marston Cottages (SMA089) (Volume 5: Appendix CH-004-011 (KBoAD(D))) and a ladder type settlement with offset square enclosure just to the east of the demolished church of St Mary at Stoke Mandeville (SMA004) (Volume 5: Appendix CH-004-011 (IBoAA(2))).

### 3.4 Romano-British (AD 43 - 410)

- 3.4.1 Settlement of Roman (AD 43–410) date is usually more extensive in scale than that of later prehistoric date, with a far greater variety of material culture (such as pottery, worked bone, metalwork and glass). There is also widespread use of stone, brick and tile for building.
- 3.4.2 Generally there appears to be an increase in population and settlement density between the 1st century BC and 1st century AD, although there is some evidence during this period for settlement abandonment and dislocation in association with a changing emphasis of where settlement was located.
- 3.4.3 Major re-organisation of the countryside occurred throughout the 1st century BC to 2nd century AD. The changes from the second half of the 1st century AD may have been a consequence of the establishment of the Roman road network and the growth of both large towns and more localised market centres.
- 3.4.4 Abandonment of settlement locations appears to be widespread from the 2nd century AD. This may reflect a fundamental re-organisation of the countryside with evidence for differential development marked in much of Southern England by the establishment of villas and/or farmsteads with Roman style buildings rather than the roundhouses typical of the Iron Age. This re-organisation was radical and allowed the support of a growing and complex pattern of urban settlement for the next 200 years and possibly beyond.
- 3.4.5 Villa estates appear to be absent from the Aylesbury area. Settlement instead consists of farmsteads, one of which may lie at Nash Lee to the south of Stoke Mandeville (outside of the study area) with others being recognised at Aston Clinton (outside of the study area), Walton Court (SMA035) and at Berryfields, Billingsfield and Aylesbury Vale Parkway (SMA077). Further evidence for settlement of Roman date has been recorded at Walton Court and Walton High School (SMA035), Aston Clinton, Bierton and Buckingham Street, Aylesbury (all outside of the study area). Settlement evidence has also been recorded from just north of Weston Turville (outside the study

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<sup>24</sup>Oxford Archaeology, (2012) Archaeological Investigations at Berryfields MDA: Interim Statement.



area). Here settlement evidence was also associated with the site of a Romano-British temple.

- 3.4.6 A Romano-British small town and probably an example of a local market centre has been identified in the area of Fleet Marston and Putlowes (SMA074). The focus of the settlement appears to be located on slightly higher ground at the junction of the underlying Kimmeridge Clay with the Oxford Clay of Aylesbury Vale to the north. This asset is described in more detail in Section 3.9 of this appendix.
- 3.4.7 The Romano-British small town at Fleet Marston (SMA074) is likely to have had an extensive hinterland of agricultural settlements to support it, both farmsteads and villa estates. Parts of the immediate hinterland appear to have been identified during investigations near Billingsfield, Berryfields, Quarrendon, Aylesbury Vale Parkway (SMA077) and from the area of the deserted medieval village around the St Mary's Church at Fleet Marston (SMA090)<sup>25</sup>. These investigations have been undertaken as part of new residential and infrastructure development in this area and have included systematic programmes of geophysical survey, evaluations, watching briefs and excavation.
- 3.4.8 The line of Akeman Street appears to have been identified near the course mapped by the Ordnance Survey (OS) just to the north-west of the River Thame and south-east of the new Aylesbury Vale Parkway station. The excavated section of road was a typical example of a metalled Roman road (agger) with flanking ditches. Where the projected line of the road crossed the River Thame investigations identified large wooden piles suggesting that a bridge had existed at this location. These timbers have yet to be dated, but it is possible that they could represent a Roman crossing of the River Thame<sup>26</sup>.
- 3.4.9 Romano-British domestic settlement comprising a number of roundhouses with associated enclosures was identified alongside and aligned with this section of road. A large waterlogged pit which has yielded an assortment of palaeoenvironmental and organic remains including basketry, leather shoe fragments, timbers and egg shell. The roundhouses appear to be of mid to late Roman date, while the waterlogged pit could be dated to the 2nd to 3rd centuries AD. Two inhumations were identified within the partially infilled roadside ditches<sup>27</sup>.
- 3.4.10 The organised division of the landscape on the alignment of Akeman Street was also identified during investigations at Aylesbury Vale Parkway. Here enclosure, field and paddock boundaries were identified. The earliest of these, close to the probable line of Akeman Street could be dated to the 1st century AD, suggesting that a reorganisation of land divisions on the line of Akeman Street was occurring within decades of the Roman Conquest. Further from the road cut features could only be broadly ascribed a Roman date<sup>28</sup>. A cremation burial of 2nd to 3rd century date and two inhumations of 3rd to 4th-century date were recovered from close to the presumed line of Akeman Street.

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<sup>25</sup>Oxford Archaeology, (2011), *Wayside Farm, Fleet Marston: Archaeological Evaluation*. Oxford Archaeology

<sup>26</sup>Oxford Archaeology, (2012)

<sup>27</sup>Oxford Archaeology, (2012)

<sup>28</sup>Oxford Archaeology, (2012).

- 3.4.11 Further to the east further evidence for Roman agricultural land partition was identified with a typically ladder like arrangement of narrow ditched enclosures, fields and paddocks aligned to either side of a trackway that extends north-west from Akeman Street. Investigations in the area to the north of the scheduled monument of the medieval village at Quarrendon are continuing to identify further evidence for Roman activity. This area has also yielded a number of as yet undated cremation burials<sup>29</sup>.
- 3.4.12 Land division of Roman date has also been recorded during investigations in the area surrounding the isolated St Mary's Church at Fleet Marston. Here a number of ditched enclosures and/or paddocks were identified. The paucity of artefactual evidence of Roman date recovered from this area suggests, however that it may be at some distance from the settlement focus<sup>30</sup>.
- 3.4.13 Settlement of Roman date has also been recorded at Aston Clinton, Buckingham Street, Aylesbury<sup>31</sup>, Walton Court and Walton High School <sup>32</sup> (SMA035), and to the south of Stoke Mandeville Hospital (SMA027). Geophysical survey has also identified a ladder like arrangement of enclosures with an offset square enclosure just to the east of the demolished St Mary's Church at Stoke Mandeville (SMA004) (Volume 5: Appendix CH-004-011 (IBoAA(2)). Romano-British pits and ditches were also identified during investigations at Risborough Road (SMA009). It is possible that the complex settlement activity identified by geophysical survey to the south of Walton Court (SMA034) could also include Romano-British activity (Volume 5: Appendix CH-004-011 (IBoAC)).
- 3.4.14 Further areas of Romano-British settlement are suggested to the south of Aylesbury by findspots and evidence recovered during archaeological fieldwalking between Walton Court and Bishopstone (SMA034). Romano-British finds, including cremations, have been made at Locke's Pit (SMA042) and finds (including possible grave goods) have also been reported from within the parkland at Hartwell (SMA050) and in the area of Haydon Mill (SMA063). A parch mark to the south of Stoke Mandeville (SMA098) may indicate the line of a Roman road and, if so, may have acted as a focus for Romano-British activity.

## 3.5 Early medieval (AD 410 - 1066)

- 3.5.1 Understanding what was occurring in the 5th to 7th centuries AD is very challenging. Material culture is drastically reduced as handmade Anglo-Saxon pottery does not survive well in plough soils and coinage is only present reliably from circa AD 700 and even then is very rare.
- 3.5.2 What is apparent is that the social, monetary, economic and political organisation of the Roman period broke down to be replaced by a system of smaller tribal entities that came to adopt customs, social organisation, material culture, stylistic forms and

<sup>29</sup> Oxford Archaeology, (2012)

<sup>30</sup> Oxford Archaeology, (2011)

<sup>31</sup> Allen, D., (1982), *Salvage excavations at 13-19 Buckingham Street and the Bulls Head re-development site, Aylesbury in 1979 and 1980*, Records of Buckinghamshire 24.

<sup>32</sup> Farley, M., Nash, D. and White, R., (1981), *A Late Iron Age and Roman site at Walton Court, Aylesbury*. Records of Buckinghamshire 23.



language of a new elite derived from Northern Europe and Scandinavia. The period appears to have been unsettled and warlike as these entities strove for power until the principal Anglo-Saxon kingdoms of East Anglia, Mercia and Wessex became established. The study area lies in an area in which all three of these Kingdoms exerted an influence, although between the 8th to 9th centuries Mercia held sway.

- 3.5.3 Much of the evidence for the 5th to 7th centuries comes from cemeteries, although place names can also be a very useful indicator of settlement activity of this period. Cemeteries of this period are often sited on prominent points in the landscape and it is not unusual to find them associated with prehistoric barrows. Some Romano-British cemeteries also continue in use into the earlier part of this period, suggesting that even if Romano-British settlement sites were not continuing in use, settlement was still focussed close to them. Anglo-Saxon cemeteries have been identified near Sedrup and possibly also at Hartwell (SMA050). A local name of Tetlow (SMA029) near Bishopstone is also suggestive of an Early Saxon burial ground. The evidence recovered from the cemeteries at Sedrup and Hartwell included Early Saxon spearheads, knives and shield bosses. It is possible that the complex settlement activity identified by geophysical survey to the south of Walton Court (SMA034) could also include early medieval activity (Volume 5: Appendix CH-004-011 (IBoAC)).
- 3.5.4 Place names can also be an indicator of early medieval settlement and in this context the name of Putlowes at Fleet Marston (SMA074) is of interest as potentially indicating a burial ground. Early Anglo-Saxon metalwork has also been recovered in this area. A mound exists in the fields to the north-west of Putlowes and has been posited to be either a Roman or Saxon burial mound; this mound is well preserved and is located at the junction of what are likely to be two later medieval headlands, visible on LiDAR imaging. Investigations within the area of the deserted medieval settlement at Fleet Marston (SMA090) have also identified a Roman route way that remained in use into the early medieval period.
- 3.5.5 Settlement of 5th to 7th century date in Southern England tends to be scattered and based on small hamlets/farmsteads usually focussed on a small number of small timber halls with associated sunken-featured buildings. These settlements may also be associated with small ditched fields and trackways. Across Southern England, and especially on the margins of the Thames Valley, these settlements often exist close to former nucleated Romano-British sites and may represent a shifting and scattering of settlement rather than complete abandonment. The lighter, easily tilled soils near water sources were especially favoured for settlement in this period and intractable clay soils were abandoned for occupation, but may have continued in use for timber and wood pasture.
- 3.5.6 It has also been argued that on the Chilterns and their peripheries, including in the Aylesbury area, some land divisions may have survived from the Roman (and possibly earlier) period and through the early medieval and medieval periods until the modern<sup>33</sup>. In the Aylesbury area estate divisions associated with the valley fort at

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<sup>33</sup> Bull, E., (1993)

Aylesbury may be carried over into the development of 7th century church foundations<sup>34</sup>.

- 3.5.7 The deserted medieval settlement associated with the demolished St Mary's Church at Stoke Mandeville (SMA003) is possibly an example of a Saxon settlement that developed close to an established Romano-British estate focus. This site not only lies close to the Romano-British farmstead at Nash Lee (outside of the study area) but also a late prehistoric/Romano-British settlement which has been identified by geophysical survey immediately to the north (SMA004) (Volume 5: Appendix CH-004-011 (IBoAA(2))). By the later Saxon period this church and associated village may have been an important ecclesiastical holding specialising in the milling of grain from the Aylesbury Hundred and surrounding areas<sup>35</sup>.
- 3.5.8 From the 7th century onwards the archaeological record becomes clearer as documentary sources become available and the evidence from buried artefactual and structural remains more robust. The area lay at the southern edge of the Anglo-Saxon kingdom of Mercia with its southern rival Wessex, the boundary of which generally lay along the River Thames. This period also sees the widespread introduction of Christianity across the region and associated church foundations, many of which remain the locations of existing churches. This could be particularly important when considering the potential evidence for an early church foundation in the locality of the demolished medieval St Mary's Church at Stoke Mandeville (SMA003).
- 3.5.9 From the 8th century it is evident that political power was becoming more centralised with the exertion of chartered rights and the establishment of significant Royal and Episcopal holdings. The establishment of larger market centres is also apparent. Aylesbury became such a market centre and was likely to have been focussed on an important Royal Estate with an associated Minster church. It was also the location of a mint for parts of the 10th and 11th centuries. It is unlikely that Saxon Aylesbury existed in isolation and it is likely that the medieval villages of the area had early medieval origins as settlements that provided the agricultural and fiscal (from local taxation) support for the Royal and ecclesiastical estate at Aylesbury.
- 3.5.10 From the late 8th century onwards the region suffered during the Danish (Viking) incursions. This included a record by one of the Anglo-Saxon Chronicles of a significant force raiding the area from the Royal Forest of Bernwood to the north of Aylesbury<sup>36</sup>. By the 10th century the area had become part of the Kingdom of Wessex but lay close to the border with the Danish controlled area of the Danelaw (the north and eastern districts of Britain that after the Viking incursions were ceded by treaty to the rule of lords of Scandinavian descent). This part of Buckinghamshire may therefore have been an important aspect in providing support to the fortified towns (*burhs*) established by the Saxon Kingdom of Wessex as a defence against further Scandinavian expansion. This may have influenced the fundamental changes in the

<sup>34</sup> Kidd, S., (2009)

<sup>35</sup> Marsden, P., et al., (2012), *Last chance for Stoke Mandeville deserted village? In the path of the HS2 rail line*, Buckinghamshire Archaeological Society.

<sup>36</sup> Farley, M., (2006), Saxon Buckinghamshire, In: *The Solent Thames Archaeological Research Framework*.

organisation of the area's agricultural basis and fiscal system that occurred through the later 9th and 10th centuries.

- 3.5.11 Between the 9th and 11th centuries there was a greater nucleation of settlement within those parts of Buckinghamshire north of the Chiltern scarp, generally in the locations of villages that have remained populated through to the present day. The later part of this period may also have seen the fragmentation of the larger estates typical of the 8th to 10th centuries into the smaller manorial units that became the framework around which land tenure was organised throughout the following medieval period.
- 3.5.12 This period also saw the establishment of the open field agricultural system with its characteristic ridge and furrow which would remain in use throughout the medieval period. These open fields were worked communally with farmers owning and/or renting individual portions/strips within each of the open fields. The study area stands on the division between the medieval landscapes of nucleated villages with large open field systems typical of the Vale of Aylesbury and the other Midland counties (known as the 'champion' landscape) and the more dispersed pattern of smaller hamlet and farmstead typical of the Chilterns.
- 3.5.13 Early medieval (AD 410–1066) finds have been recovered during investigations at Walton Court (SMA035) and from fieldwalking between Walton Court and Bishopstone (SMA034).
- 3.5.14 A settlement existed at Stoke by 1066 as it is recorded in Domesday. In 1066 it was held by Wulfwig, Bishop of Dorchester on Thames as part of his church holdings at Aylesbury. In 1086 the church at Aylesbury was held by Remigus the Bishop of Lincoln and was his principal holding in Buckinghamshire. Aylesbury remained a Royal manor. Stoke's Domesday entry is, however, odd in that it states that before 1066 the freemen of the surrounding eight Hundreds (a late Saxon division of a county for fiscal, administrative and military purposes) paid a corn levy to the church holding at Aylesbury. As this is recorded in the Stoke entry it is possible that Stoke was the collection point for this levy to the Bishop of Dorchester, who held the demesne at Stoke<sup>37</sup>.
- 3.5.15 The link between the Episcopal Holdings at Stoke with the Royal manor at Aylesbury probably extends back into the mid-Saxon period and possibly even earlier. It seems very likely that the manor at Stoke was a significant part of the administrative and fiscal support for the Saxon Minster church at Aylesbury which was founded in the 7th century. A Saxon mill was certainly present at Stoke by 1066, as one is recorded in the Domesday Survey. The size of this mill is uncertain, although if it was milling a grain levy from the surrounding eight Hundreds it may have been quite substantial<sup>38</sup>.

## 3.6 Medieval (1066 - 1539)

- 3.6.1 By the time of the Norman Conquest (AD 1066) the settlement pattern had probably developed around the settlements of (Old) Stoke Mandeville (SMA003), Weston

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<sup>37</sup> Marsden, P., et al., (2012)

<sup>38</sup> Marsden, P., et al., (2012)

Turville (SMA024), Bishopstone (SMA039), Sedrup (SMA041), Hartwell (SMA054), Walton Court (SMA035), Coldharbour (SMA058), Aylesbury (SMA048), Quarrendon (SMA078), and Fleet Marston (SMA090). It is also likely that much of the modern layout of roads (especially the minor ones) and trackways in the area date back to at least the medieval period.

- 3.6.2 The manorial system with its associated agricultural system based on the communal working of associated open fields had become established before the Norman Conquest and remained the norm throughout the medieval period. The centuries following the conquest also witnessed fundamental changes in national and local government, commerce, technology and the related organisation of society. This period also witnessed first a rapid growth in population through the 11th to 13th centuries followed by a succession of grievous checks in population due to a succession of famines in the earlier 14th century as a result of worsening climate and crop failures. These were closely followed by the outbreak of the Great Plague in 1347, which may have killed approximately a third of the population. Further outbreaks of plague occurred throughout the later 14th and 15th centuries.
- 3.6.3 The Norman Conquest saw the establishment of an entirely new royal dynasty and the apportionment of the manors of England to William the Conqueror's military elite and their families. Significant holdings also continued to be held by the church, including within Aylesbury and at Stoke Mandeville (SMA003). Further additions were bequeathed to both church and the new monasteries by kings, aristocracy and emerging mercantile gentry throughout the period. Examples of new land grants probably include the moated sites at Old Moat Farm (SMA022) and Hall End (SMA023). By the 15th century the church and monasteries were the landlords of a very significant proportion of England and were major employers and entrepreneurs.
- 3.6.4 The Norman Conquest also saw the imposition of the feudal system, labour was cheap and tied to the land and aristocratic and ecclesiastical landlords had significant power to manage and organise their holdings. Both the crown and major landholders developed vast areas of countryside as hunting preserves for the rearing of deer and other game. These forests, including the Royal Forest of Bernwood that extended into the northern edge of the study area, were not necessarily wooded but were called forest as they were administered under the regulations of the Forest Statutes.
- 3.6.5 From the late 12th century the Crown and aristocracy also increasingly sought to improve their incomes through the establishment of market centres, often in conjunction with the establishment of new planned settlements or re-organisation of existing ones. This period also saw significant investment in new technologies such as improved watermills and the introduction of windmills to Britain. Within the study area this can be recognised not only in the development of Aylesbury as a market town but may also have resulted in the establishment of new mills within its supporting settlements. Re-organisations may also have resulted in whole villages being re-located to new locations resulting in abandonment of their former locations. Locations of windmills may be represented by the mounds identified within the parkland at Hartwell (Abbynt's Mill) (SMA066) and the mound in the fields to the

north of Putlowes within the area of the Romano-British small town at Fleet Marston (SMA074).

- 3.6.6 The rising population throughout the 12th and 13th centuries may have resulted in the uptake of more marginal land helped by the introduction of the mould board plough and later the replacement of ox teams by horses to pull them. This colonisation of more marginal clays and clearance (assarting) of woodland and waste (undeveloped land outside of a settlement's arable area) on the periphery of established settlements can be identified in part by the proliferation of moated sites, which typically date to this period of expansion. Many of these moated sites mark the location of newly established manors and/or ecclesiastical or monastic granges, but some were probably established by freemen and yeomen who were increasingly becoming an important facet of the medieval agricultural economy. These include the moats and possible fishponds at Stoke House (SMA006), Moat Farm (SMA022), near Brook Farm (SMA012) and at Hall End (SMA023). At Moat Farm there are the remains of former fishponds. Much of the study area north of the River Thame formerly lay within the Royal hunting forest of Bernwood. The settlements of Eythrope (SMA071), Putlowes (SMA088) and Upper Cranwell may all have been assarted (clearance of woodland) from this Royal forest during the 13th to early 14th centuries in order to open up new agricultural land in more marginal areas to support the growing population.
- 3.6.7 The famines and plagues of the 14th century seem to have brought an end to the uptake of more marginal land and may also in great part have been responsible for the abandonment of many sites both in more marginal areas and elsewhere. The dramatic decline in population was not the only reason for the abandonment and shrinkage of rural settlement. Changes in agricultural practices and associated shifts in the rural economy to improve rents from land and lordly incomes from farming had major implications for the fabric of rural society and were also significant reasons for the abandonment of settlements. This shift witnessed the widespread abandonment of the traditional communal farming system and introduction of less labour intensive methods, including a dramatic increase in the amount of land that was given over to pasture for sheep (to provide wool that had become one of England's principal and most profitable exports) and to a lesser extent cattle (to feed the burgeoning urban populations). This shift also witnessed the decline of the feudal system with a peasantry generally tied to a particular manor and the establishment of a more mobile rural workforce. This period also saw the rise of the farming yeomanry that by the 15th century could be seen to be becoming a newly gentrified class. These changes had a significant impact on the nature of medieval rural settlement and resulted not only in the shrinkage and abandonment of settlements but also in the first widespread abandonment of communal open field systems with its characteristic ridge and furrow to be replaced by private enclosure.
- 3.6.8 Areas of former medieval settlement can be identified as village earthworks at the scheduled monument at Quarrendon (SMA078), which appears to have been an example of dispersed medieval settlement that may represent a shifting focus of activity before its final abandonment in the post-medieval period. Other examples are Eythrope (SMA071) and Fleet Marston (SMA090), where little now remains except the isolated St Mary's Church (SMA089). Archaeological investigations undertaken

around the St Mary's Church identified medieval activity suggesting that the settlement was in existence before the Norman Conquest and became deserted before the 16th century. Both these settlements appear to have been in the process of becoming abandoned before the post-medieval period and may represent settlements that were abandoned due to a shrinking population and/or due to a shift in emphasis away from arable production (which was labour intensive) to more profitable stock rearing (which wasn't).

- 3.6.9 At least one medieval settlement is known to have existed within the parkland at Hartwell, concentrated along the valley extending east from Lower Hartwell (SMAo54). Earthworks can still be seen in aerial photography and LiDAR of this area, although much obscured by the golf course. A second medieval settlement may lie further to the north within the Hartwell parkland (SMAo62). Ridge and furrow is present at Lower Hartwell (SMAo67) and extends within the later parkland.
- 3.6.10 A medieval settlement is also suspected from documentary evidence at Putlowes (SMAo74 and SMAo88). Although little in the way of finds has been reported to confirm this, the presence of ridge and furrow and former headlands in this area strongly suggests an open field system focussed around Putlowes. Another medieval settlement with a moated site is present at Upper Cranwell Farm. North of Putlowes, LiDAR and to a lesser extent modern aerial photography also suggest the existence of heavily eroded headlands that may once have marked the limit of the open field system associated with the settlement at Putlowes (Volume 5: Appendix CH-004-011). Extensive areas of ridge and furrow were identified during the programme of archaeological investigation at Aylesbury Vale Parkway, Berryfields (SMAo77) and near Quarrendon (SMAo78), suggesting that during the medieval period, these areas lay within the open field systems of the nearby settlements.
- 3.6.11 There is probably a deserted medieval village and manorial centre around the demolished ruins of the St Mary's Church at Stoke Mandeville (SMAo03). The church is believed to have been first built in the 12th century. This site is discussed in more detail in Sections 3.9 and 4.1 of this appendix.
- 3.6.12 Medieval finds have been reported during intrusive investigations and fieldwalking between Walton Court and Bishopstone (SMAo34) and at Walton Court (SMAo35). The location of a medieval bridge is also believed (based on the depiction of a bridge in this area on Jeffrey's County map of 1767) to be present on the southern periphery of Walton Court (SMAo38).
- 3.6.13 The location of a medieval mill is known at Haydon Mill (SMAo64) and it is likely that a mill will also be present at the deserted medieval settlement at Hartwell (SMAo54). Another mill, known as Abbynt's Mill is also suspected to be present in the eastern portion of the parkland at Hartwell (SMAo66) and may have been a windmill as its posited location is associated with a mound.
- 3.6.14 Medieval finds have been reported during intrusive investigations and fieldwalking at Ellen Road (SMAo55) and Coldharbour Farm (SMAo58 and o59). No settlement evidence was found in these locations and the scatters probably represent material

mixed in with night soil being spread onto the open field systems associated with nearby settlements.

### 3.7 Post-medieval (1539 - 1900)

- 3.7.1 The pattern of settlement established in the medieval period forms the basis for the pattern which continued through the post-medieval period to the present day.
- 3.7.2 The character of post-medieval settlement evidence is one in which surviving built structures are more prevalent, although buried evidence similar to that of medieval date but typically with a greater quantity and variety of artefactual evidence will still be present as buried evidence.
- 3.7.3 The post-medieval period also witnessed the widespread abandonment of the medieval agricultural organisation based on open fields with its ridge and furrow strips divided by headlands. This was replaced by enclosed fields both for arable production and to provide enclosed pasture. The enclosure of the landscape commenced in the later medieval period and accelerated after the final dissolution of the monasteries under Henry VIII between 1536 and 1539 which brought more land into private ownership and the commensurate rise of a gentrified class.
- 3.7.4 A number of large houses established by the gentry are present within the study area and are often associated with surrounding planned estates, parks and gardens. These include the Grade I listed Hartwell House (within grouping SMA050) which lies at the heart of the late 17th to 19th century Grade II\* registered park and garden (RPG) at Hartwell. This was linked by an avenue with another house and garden (owned in the 16th to mid-17th centuries by the Lee family who also owned Hartwell<sup>39</sup>) set amongst the scheduled monument of the deserted medieval villages at Quarrendon (SMA078). This parkland was probably originally designed for the Lee family in the late 17th century by the local gardener James Neale before being re-worked in the 1730s by James Gibbs. The garden was wholly redesigned in the 1760s in the new picturesque style by Richard Woods, a student of Capability Brown.
- 3.7.5 Designed landscapes were also established in the 18th century around what would become the Rothschild estate at Eythrope (SMA070) and greatly altered by Alice Rothschild in the 1870s. This is a Grade II RPG which occupies the higher ground formed by the Portland/Purbeck Limestones with views northwards towards Aylesbury.
- 3.7.6 Many of the farmhouses and associated agricultural buildings in the area were built between the 17th and 19th centuries as enclosure (both private and parliamentary) heralded a fundamental re-organisation of farming practices and of the countryside. This led to the abandonment of the communal open field farming system in strips and the consolidation of private and tenanted farmland as discrete farmstead. Examples of farmsteads established during or immediately after enclosure include Standalls Farm (SMA30) and Whaddon Hill Farm (SMA061).

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<sup>39</sup> Everson, P., (2001), *Peasants, Peers and Graziers: The landscape of Quarrendon, Buckinghamshire, interpreted*, Records of Buckinghamshire Vol. 41.

- 3.7.7 Re-organisation of the countryside was accompanied by an associated change in labour division. A lower proportion of the rapidly expanding population could be employed on the land while the demands of industry and commerce led to a burgeoning urban population. Aylesbury continued to be an important market and county town and from the 19th century onwards it and its satellite settlements (such as Stoke Mandeville) expanded outwards from their cores. New markets for the agricultural produce of the Aylesbury area were opened up by the improvement of roads in the late 18th and 19th centuries. Dairy farming, horticulture and orchards increasingly became a staple of the local agricultural economy, especially around Stoke Mandeville, Weston Turville and especially Stone. The construction of the railways providing a fast link to both London and the industrial heartland of the Midlands greatly facilitated this growth by opening up new markets for such perishable goods.
- 3.7.8 The urban expansion of Aylesbury and other settlements and infrastructure encouraged the development of local extractive industries to furnish bricks, mortar, road stone and ballast. Post-medieval industry is also represented within the study area by the gravel and clay extraction pits that were worked between Hartwell and Walton during the 19th and 20th centuries. There is a record of an early post-medieval tile kiln at Hartwell (SMA054) and gravel and clay extraction pits at Locke's Pit (SMA042). Further changes have also been made to the local landscape by alterations to post-medieval field boundaries to facilitate modern mechanised agricultural practices.

### **3.8 Twentieth century/modern (1900 - present)**

- 3.8.1 At Sedrup a camp to house Italian prisoners of war (POW) was established during World War II (SMA043) and Hartwell House and its grounds (SMA050) was utilised as a billet for troops being trained for D-Day.
- 3.8.2 The isolated St Mary's Church at Stoke Mandeville (SMA003) gradually fell into ruins and was replaced by a new St Mary's Church within the post-medieval core of Stoke Mandeville in the 1850s. The burial ground around the abandoned church remained in use for the occasional interment until 1908. The ruins became ever more dangerous and were finally demolished with explosives by the Royal Engineers in 1960.
- 3.8.3 Aylesbury has continued to expand outwards from its core with the town centre now surrounded by mainly later 20th and early 21st century residential estates, light industry and retail parks.



### 3.9 Selected archaeological sites within and immediately adjacent to the land required, temporarily or permanently, for construction of the Proposed Scheme

#### Demolished St Mary's Church, Stoke Mandeville (SMA003)

- 3.9.1 The asset comprises of the site of the demolished church of St Mary the Virgin and the earthworks associated with the deserted medieval village at Stoke Mandeville (SMA003). The church enclosure and deserted medieval village is not designated.
- 3.9.2 The principal attribution of high value to the site of the former church of St Mary's and the likely associated leats and earthworks lies in its buried archaeological resource. The nature of the buried archaeology at this site accords it a high value although the agricultural setting with other nearby medieval features at Stoke House (SMA008) in which it lies lends additional weight.
- 3.9.3 An essential facet of this asset's value is its potential origin as an important Episcopal manor associated with the Saxon Bishopric of Dorchester-on-Thames and later the medieval Bishopric of Lincoln. The possible association of the site as a chapelry linked to the Saxon Minster church at Aylesbury lends further weight to its significance.
- 3.9.4 The buried archaeological resource of this asset includes the buried remains of a church dating to at least the 12th century and an associated burial ground. It is likely that the buried remains of a former medieval manor house and features associated with an Episcopal demesne and mill centre are also present, along with buried features associated with any surrounding settlement and agricultural system(s). These remains could date to at least the mid-Saxon period and possibly as far back as the 7th century AD.
- 3.9.5 The church enclosure and what is now pastureland that surrounds it lie within a shallow valley in the gently undulating agricultural landscape to the south of Stoke Mandeville. Stoke House occupies slightly higher ground on the eastern flank of this valley.
- 3.9.6 A settlement existed at Stoke by 1066 (see Section 3.4 of this report). In 1291 Stoke is recorded as one of the chapelries at Aylesbury. The link between the Episcopal holding at Stoke with the Royal manor at Aylesbury probably extends back into the mid-Saxon period and possibly even earlier (see Section 3.4 of this report). The chapel was removed from Aylesbury soon after this, although the manor at Stoke remained as a demesne of the Bishop of Lincoln. The manor at Stoke had by this date already been sub-divided and sub-let by the Bishopric of Lincoln to the Mandevilles and Eynsforths. In 1535 these manors were Stoke Mandeville and Stoke Halling. It is probable that the former refers to a manorial centre focussed near the church (i.e. part of this asset); the latter may be a manor focussed on the house at Hall End.
- 3.9.7 At some point the medieval settlement probably became focussed on the St Mary's Church. This original church at Stoke Mandeville was demolished in the 1960s having been derelict since the mid-19th century. The remains of the church lie within an enclosure containing a graveyard that remains consecrated ground. The last burial in

the graveyard was in 1908. The graveyard forms a noticeable mound above the surrounding pasture land, possibly suggesting an extended period during which the ground here has been disturbed for insertion of burials and/or built on.

- 3.9.8 The church is believed to have been first built in the 12th century, although photographs of the interior show what may be a Norman arch between the Nave and the Chancel. The 1798 Enclosure map for Stoke Mandeville shows a second large building within the enclosure, which had been demolished before 1834. This second building lay on a north/south alignment to the south of the church and was of an equivalent size. This building is likely to have been a former manor house. Early 20th century photos of the south side of the church appear to show low earthworks in the area of this former building, but no evidence for it having been conjoined to the church.
- 3.9.9 St Mary's Church was demolished with explosives by the Royal Engineers in the 1960s leaving a pile of rubble which is now heavily overgrown. The foundations and possibly lower sections of walling are likely to survive within and under this pile along with any other underlying features such as a crypt and burials. Architectural fragments from the church are clearly visible within the rubble and in the surrounding graveyard. The graveyard has likely been in continuous use since at least the 12th century and very possibly earlier up until when the last burial was interred in 1908.
- 3.9.10 A number of earthworks are visible in the surrounding landscape. These include a pair of former leats running to the north and south of the church enclosure. Both of these leats are linked to a stream to the east of the church enclosure, the southern leat running to the south before turning to the north-west; at this turn it is joined by a second stream that runs from the south. The northern leat runs north-west before turning westward to join the southern leat near Mill House Farm (SMA095). Together these leats effectively make an outer enclosure in which the church enclosure lies. From Mill House Farm the two leats re-join and flow north to join another stream flowing from the north-east between Stoke House (SMA008) and Whitehorn Farm (SMA096).
- 3.9.11 The stream from which these two leats extends is canalised immediately to the north of where they branch south to enclose the church. This canalised section runs in a straight line northwards to feed into the moat and ponds at Stoke House. This may be a later development of the water management system.
- 3.9.12 The OS mapping up until the 1990s shows that a banked enclosure lay to the south of the church. This has been ploughed out since 1995 and is no longer visible as an earthwork or apparent to LiDAR imaging. Aerial photographs also suggest that a pair of ponds- one orientated north to south and the other orientated east to west existed in the paddock immediately to the north of the church enclosure. Again these are no longer apparent to visual survey or on LiDAR imaging. These could be fishponds, mill ponds or even parts of another moated site.
- 3.9.13 LiDAR imaging indicates the presence of two or three platforms adjacent to the eastern leat to the south-east of the church enclosure. A third platform appears to be present at the junction of the two leats near Mill House Farm (SMA095). These may

indicate the former location of buildings (such as mills) lying beside these leats or could be quarry hollows. LiDAR imaging also suggests the presence of low, broad, curvilinear earthworks in the fields to the east of the church enclosure; these may be remnants of headlands associated with a medieval open-field system. Ground survey suggests that there may also be a platform to the east of the eastern leat. A bank is also evident associated with the southernmost leat as it passes to the south west of the church enclosure.

- 3.9.14 The landscape component (SMA097) in which the church enclosure lies and which provides its setting is discussed in Section 4.1 of this appendix.

### **Fleet Marston Romano-British small town (SMA074)**

- 3.9.15 It has been suggested that the Romano-British settlement at Fleet Marston has its origin as a Roman Conquest period fort<sup>40</sup> established on Akeman Street Roman road, although no evidence for a specifically military function or defences has been identified. Akeman Street may have been established as part of a military route linking St Albans (Verulamium) with Cirencester (Corinium) soon after the Roman Conquest. The settlement may have developed as a market centre and also have had an administrative function.
- 3.9.16 The settlement at Fleet Marston (SMA074) stands on the junction of Akeman Street (Margary route 16a) (SMA076) with two other postulated roads (SMA085/6 and SMA075). The first of these (SMA085/6) (Margary route 162) runs north to a crossing of the Great Ouse and potential cult centre at Thornborough, near Buckingham; evidence for this road has been identified during investigations to the north of the A41 near Wayside Farm. The second road (SMA075) is not listed by Margary and is believed to run south towards Sheepcote Farm and the ridge at Eythrope. Evidence for this road has now probably been identified on geophysics just to the south of its posited alignment and is flanked to the north by a small enclosure (see Appendix CH-004-011 (KBoAD))). A number of other roads and trackways are also reportedly visible as surface stone scatters within the ploughsoil to the north-west of Putlowes (SMA079, 080, 081 and 084).
- 3.9.17 The line of Akeman Street (SMA076) has been identified in a number of locations in the Aylesbury area and evidence for it has been reported from its established route in investigations at Fleet Marston (SMA074) and Berryfields (SMA077). The line of Akeman Street through the fields at Fleet Marston has now been established by geophysical survey and is clearly visible as a stone scatter within ploughsoils (see Volume 5: Appendix CH-004-011 (KBoAD))). Lying beside an intersection of the River Thames with a number of tributaries, it is possible that a ford or crossing point on the River Thames existed, possibly in the vicinity of Putlowes.
- 3.9.18 The focus of the settlement at Fleet Marston (SMA074) appears to lie within the fields immediately to the north-west of Putlowes. This area lies on a low ridge that is slightly higher than the surrounding farmland and overlooks the meeting of a tributary stream passing Fleet Marston to the north with the River Thames to the south-east. This

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<sup>40</sup> Webster, J., (1980), *The Roman Conquest of Britain*, David Blair

location on rising ground adjacent to a river (and river crossing) is a typical location to find a Romano-British small town.

- 3.9.19 The evidence at Fleet Marston (SMA074) comprises an extensive area (approximately 100ha), roughly between the A41 at Billingsfield, Fleet Marston Farm and Putlowes Farm, in which very numerous finds of Roman pottery, coinage and tile have been made during fieldwalking as well as numerous metal finds recovered from fieldwalking and metal detecting surveys. Geophysical survey of the presumed northern periphery of the settlement has clearly established the presence of a number of square enclosures flanking Akeman Street as it leaves the northern edge of the settlement (see Appendix CH-004-011). Similar enclosures representing roadside settlement have also been identified through geophysical survey at Overy, just outside the Romano-British small town at Dorchester-on-Thames, and at the small towns of Magiovinium near Bletchley and Hibaldstow in Lincolnshire <sup>41</sup>. Another rectilinear enclosure with sub-divisions overlaps Akeman Street to the north of these and may be a later Roman building constructed over the road, suggesting that the original line of the road may have shifted. A second route may lie approximately 150m to the south of the line depicted as the Roman road by the OS and HER at Fleet Marston. A parch mark of a road, visible on aerial photographs, appears to extend north-west from Putlowes Farm; a slight kink brings it back onto its OS mapped alignment near Cranwell Farm.
- 3.9.20 Metalwork recovered from the fields at Fleet Marston (SMA074) includes a number of potential military apron mounts and a pewter hoard. Reports of finds of masonry suggest that stone buildings may also be present. If a road does lie to the south of, and running in parallel to Akeman Street's mapped line at Putlowes, then the area in which the settlement focus is believed to lie may extend significantly further south than the Archaeological Notification Area mapped by Buckinghamshire County Council to the south-west of Putlowes. This area to the south-west of Putlowes has few recorded finds, possibly as it is predominantly pasture and has also been covered by ridge and furrow.
- 3.9.21 Ritual and burial activity is suggested south of the A41 at Fleet Marston and Putlowes (SMA074) by recorded finds of cremations, a lead sarcophagus from near Putlowes and potentially the remains of a Romano-British temple near Upper Cranwell Farm. Any Roman cemeteries at Fleet Marston are likely to lie alongside Akeman Street and the roads leading towards Thornborough and Eythrope, although burials are also likely to occur within the core of the settlement itself. If there is a second road roughly parallel to Akeman Street then this too could be a focus for funerary activity.

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<sup>41</sup> Finch-Smith, R., (1987), *Roadside Settlements in Lowland Britain: A gazetteer and study of their origins, growth and decline, property boundaries and cemeteries*, British Archaeological Reports British Series 157.

## 4 Built heritage

- 4.1.1 This section provides baseline information relating to built heritage assets within the land required, temporarily or permanently, for construction of the Proposed Scheme, 500m study area and wider ZTV. This section provides the following information:
- descriptions of all built heritage assets or asset groupings wholly or partially within the land required, temporarily or permanently, for construction of the Proposed Scheme. This includes descriptions of settlements where relevant;
  - descriptions of all built heritage assets or asset groupings wholly or partially within 500m of the edge of the land required for the construction of the Proposed Scheme. This includes descriptions of settlements where relevant; and
  - descriptions of selected designated assets within the ZTV.
- 4.1.2 A broad overview of the character and form of the settlement pattern within the study area can be found in Section 6 of this appendix.
- 4.1.3 Further information on all these assets, plus those other designated assets which lie within the ZTV but are not described in Section 4.4 of this appendix, can be found in the Gazetteer in Volume 5: Appendix CH-002-011. These assets are mapped in Maps CH-01-034 to CH-01-036, and CH-02-18 (Volume 5, Cultural Heritage Map Book).

### 4.2 Built heritage assets within the land required, temporarily or permanently, for the construction of the Proposed Scheme

- 4.2.1 The following built heritage assets or asset groupings, both designated and non-designated, lie wholly or partially within the land required, temporarily or permanently, for construction of the Proposed Scheme. The assets are described from south to north.

#### Glebe House (SMAo44)

- 4.2.2 Glebe House (SMAo44) is a Grade II listed house containing a number of features which leave the designed function uncertain. The main house (and possibly one of the outbuildings) was built in the 1840s with a range of additional outbuildings being added between 1879 and 1885. The outbuildings comprise a probable stable block and/or tack room with loft, a second single storey brick stable block and cart/carriage shed. A wrought iron gate hung from decorative cast iron posts closes off the drive from the A418 and can be considered to be part of the grounds. Glebe House and its grounds are incorporated into the Hartwell Conservation Area.
- 4.2.3 The wrought iron gate closing the driveway entrance onto the Thame Road does not quite fit between the posts snugly, suggesting it is not the original hanging. Short sections of wrought iron railing fence extend to either side of the gateway. This gate stands in the approximate location of a field entrance (apparently with a gate) marked

on the 1776 Enclosure map for Hartwell. The gate could be a decorative wrought iron field gate of mid-18th century date and may have been re-hung on a pair of cast iron posts with Jacobean style tracery in the mid to late 19th century (possibly when the entrance from the road was moved post 1879). This gate was present when the current owners of the property moved in in the 1960s. A pair of 18th century style wooden gates closes off the courtyard of the stables from drive; these were apparently added to the house by the current owners since the 1960s and may be reproductions.

- 4.2.4 The 1776 Enclosure map for Hartwell shows that the area to the south of the Thame Road was partitioned into fields at this date with glebeland belonging to the Rectory of Hartwell lying immediately to the west of where Glebe House would later be built. There are no structures shown on this map in the area of Glebe House, apart from the possibility of the gate previously mentioned. An 1812 estate map of Hartwell exists but shows nothing different to the information on the 1776 map.
- 4.2.5 Glebe House was built circa 1840 and is first shown on the 1879 Hartwell estate map. This map seems to show that the entrance to the property from the adjacent Thame Road was originally somewhat to the east of its present location and had been moved to its current location by 1885, when it is shown there on the 1st edition OS. The 1879 estate map also shows that part of the brick stable block extending westward from the house dates to at least 1879 and very possibly earlier. This may originally have been an ancillary wing such as kitchen or buttery. The remainder of the stable block (including the portion with the loft) and cart shed were added between 1879 and 1885. The 1885 OS map also shows that Glebe House stood within an orchard at this date and had a well.
- 4.2.6 The interesting exterior aspects of this building comprise:
- all four elevations of the house differ from each other with the rear elevation facing south across open fields having the grandest design with large arched casements;
  - the two sides, while both being plain, also each differ from each other;
  - the eastern elevation has narrow seven light casements more typical of industrial use on both the ground and first floors. These windows appear to light long narrow rooms that may have been suitable for work benches; and
  - the north elevation is different again and not nearly as grand as the rear elevation with bay windows on ground and first floor.
- 4.2.7 The interesting interior features of this building include:
- the use of slate to construct the staircase, which may be unique in a building of this type and rather suggests that the building's intended purpose was not purely (if at all) residential;
  - the stairwell is overlooked internally by a lancet window opening onto a relatively small room. This lancet window may not have been intended to light the room, but may have been for a supervisory purpose. This is another hint that the intended use for the house was other than residential; and

- the main entrance way (on the west side of the house) has internal recesses for bolts and lock mechanism suggesting that the door was both solid and designed to be left open for long periods, a feature not typical of a residential property.

- 4.2.8 Taken together the unusual features of Glebe House suggest that it was not built principally as a villa style residence, but may have had some other use possibly an estate function associated with the management of either the Hartwell estate or Hartwell rectory.
- 4.2.9 The setting in which these assets lie comprises a busy roadside (A418) on the principal approach to Aylesbury from Thame to the south. To the south of these assets lies open countryside. The main access to these properties lies to the north from the A418 although it is likely that their principal and therefore key views lie across the open countryside to the south. This seems a certainty with Glebe House, which has its most impressive façade facing in this direction directly linking the property to the open views across the agricultural landscape to the south-east.
- 4.2.10 The interrelationship of Glebe House with the buildings and other features within its grounds and with the agricultural landscape that extends to the south-east contributes to its value.

### **Park Villa, Hartwell Cottage and The Oaks (SMA101)**

- 4.2.11 The assets comprise three late Victorian/Edwardian non-designated villa houses and their associated outbuildings (SMA097). Park Villa and Hartwell Cottage are both depicted on the 1st edition OS map dating to the 1880s. The Oaks is somewhat later. These buildings are undesignated but lie within the Hartwell conservation area.
- 4.2.12 These assets are a local example of late Victorian/Edwardian suburban expansion. Aspects of the local townscape/landscape and their interrelationship within a shared setting contribute to their value.
- 4.2.13 The landscape in which these assets lie is principally a construct of post-medieval suburban expansion with views southwards over a landscape predominantly created by Parliamentary enclosure. The agricultural landscape to the south-east of these buildings frames their setting and contributes to their value.
- 4.2.14 Hedges and modern fencing now screen these buildings from the A418 leaving the only open views to the south-east across agricultural land. It is uncertain whether this sense of enclosure from the A418 was an intrinsic design element to these houses or whether it developed as the nature of the A418 changed with the increase of traffic during the later 20th century.

## **4.3 Built heritage assets within 500m of the boundary of the land required for construction of the Proposed Scheme**

- 4.3.1 The following built heritage assets or asset groupings, both designated and non-designated, lie wholly or partially within 500m of the land required, temporarily or

permanently, for construction of the Proposed Scheme. The assets are described from south to north.

### **Hartwell House and associated parkland (SMA050)**

- 4.3.2 Hartwell House is a Grade I listed building set within a Grade II\* RPG and within the Hartwell conservation area.
- 4.3.3 Hartwell House is a country house originally built in the early 17th century and extended to designs by William Keene in the mid-18th century. The house and grounds are featured in a series of paintings by Balthazar Nebot dating to 1738. The house was owned by the Lee family for over 300 years and between 1809 and 1813 and was the primary residence of the French Royal Court in exile during the Napoleonic Wars.
- 4.3.4 The surrounding inner park and avenue to the north, which provides the immediate setting for the house make a crucial contribution to this value. Hartwell House is leased from the National Trust as a private hotel with limited public access.
- 4.3.5 The landscape park at Hartwell contains sixteen other listed buildings and structures:
- the St Mary's Church: Grade II\* listed. A church designed by William Keene 1753 – 55 to reflect the chapterhouse at York Minster;
  - the Statue of Prince Frederick: Grade II\* listed. A lead equestrian statue of Prince Frederick, eldest son and heir of George II. Dated circa 1757 this statue originally stood to the south of the house but was moved recently to its present position atop a plinth in front of the main north door of the house. This is the only known surviving equestrian statue of Prince Frederick;
  - the Pavilion/Cot to the south-east of Hartwell House: Grade II\* listed. A pavilion constructed probably to a design by James Gibbs circa 1730 with an addition of a cottage sometime after 1750. The Pavilion overlooks the former canal and may have been used by Sir Joshua Reynolds as a studio during his visits to Hartwell;
  - the Stable Block and Coach-House to south-west of Hartwell House: Grade II\* listed. The stables are probably built to a design by James Gibbs and are depicted in Nebot's paintings of Hartwell. The central arch was built to a design by William Keene in 1759;
  - the Garden Walls and Porch of the Stable Block: Grade II listed. These were constructed in the 18th century;
  - the Icehouse: Grade II listed. The Icehouse was constructed in the 1760s and lies within a mound that was possibly formed by spoil from construction of the adjacent ornamental lakes;
  - the entrance gateway: Grade II listed. This was originally a decorative arch, possibly constructed to a design by James Gibbs and shown in Nebot's paintings to have originally been placed to the south of the house to frame a view towards (the now demolished) St Mary's Church at Stoke Mandeville



(part of asset grouping SMA003). This feature was moved to its current location as the main entrance to the park and house in the later 18th century;

- the Entrance Lodge: Grade II listed. An entrance lodge built in later 18th century;
- the Old Rectory: Grade II listed. A house built in the 18th century but incorporating some 16th century elements;
- the Gardener's Cottage: Grade II listed. A house built in 18th century but incorporating 17th century windows;
- the Subway under the road to south-west of the stable block: Grade II listed. A tunnel constructed as part of the 1760s redesign of the parkland as a linking feature between the house and the kitchen and flower gardens;
- the Gothic Tower: Grade II listed. A decorative feature built in the 1730s, possibly to a design by James Gibbs and originally located in the Wilderness to the south of the house and is shown there in a painting by Nebot. It has since been moved to its current location to the north-west of the house;
- the Park Hill statue: Grade II listed. A column topped by what was originally a statue of William III and previously located to the north-west of the house, possibly as part of a James Gibbs design and illustrated by Nebot in his 1738 paintings. The column was moved to its present location to the south of the house and the statue exchanged for one of George II in 1757;
- four busts on pedestals to the south of Hartwell House: Grade II listed. These were possibly commissioned as part of a James Gibbs design and featured in Nebot's paintings of 1738;
- the Obelisk: Grade II listed. The Obelisk was possibly commissioned as part of a James Gibbs design and originally stood a little closer to the house before being moved further south;
- the bridge north-east of Hartwell House: Grade II listed. This bridge may be part of the original Kew Bridge designed by James Paine in 1782 and moved to Hartwell as part of Bornomi's redesign of circa 1860. It replaces an original bridge in this location constructed in 1780 by James Wyatt; and
- a pair of statues to south of Hartwell House: Grade II listed. A pair of statues possibly part of a James Gibbs design and depicting a classical god and goddess, each with a large bird. These statues originally flanked the now filled in canal and were probably moved to their current location in the mid-18th century.

4.3.6 These built heritage assets are intimately associated with the development of the parkland landscape at Hartwell which is described in more detail in Section 7 of this appendix.

## Stoke House and associated features (SMA007)

- 4.3.7 Stoke House (SMA007) is a Grade II listed Queen Anne house built in the early years of the 18th century by a relatively prosperous farmer. The house is built on a low rise within the low undulating agricultural land to the south of Stoke Mandeville. The front of Stoke House faces to the south and this is the direction of its principal view. To the north of the house lies a range of ancillary buildings that lie in the area occupied by buildings on the 1797 enclosure map. The house is screened from its surroundings by a shelter belt of woodland on its south-western and northern sides. A lighter screen of trees lies to the south of the house, but with a gap to extend the southward view across the arable farmland to the south.
- 4.3.8 The moats, ponds and leats that surround Stoke House may be a visible remnant of a former medieval manorial site, possibly the manor of Newbury that became established at Stoke Mandeville in the later medieval period. Beyond a vague documentary reference very little is known about the origins of this site<sup>42</sup>.
- 4.3.9 There is no direct visual link between Stoke House and the enclosure in which the former St Mary's Church (SMA008) lies, although the pastureland in the shallow valley to the south-west of Stoke House must also be considered as part of the wider setting of Stoke House as it provides a link between the house and the former church and associated features which add time depth and historical legibility to the local landscape.
- 4.3.10 There is strong continuity with the past land use surrounding Stoke House as it still lies at the heart of an active agricultural concern with land tenure extending over the arable fields that lie within its key view southwards and the pastureland in the shallow valley in which the former St Mary's Church lies.
- 4.3.11 The landscape character that makes up the setting of Stoke House is principally a post-medieval construct, although elements of the medieval landscape survive within and bounding the pasture land surrounding the former St Mary's Church. Stoke House is an element that forms a secondary focus for the St Marys Stoke Mandeville historic landscape component (SMA097). This relationship contributes to the value of both Stoke House and the historic landscape component.

## Mill House Farm (SMA095)

- 4.3.12 Mill House Farm (SMA095) is first recorded on the 1st edition OS map of 1885 as two ranges of buildings on the northern side of a narrow track leading from the Old Risborough Road to the demolished St Mary's Church at Stoke Mandeville. At this date the farm was called Timse's Farm. A small building is shown on the 1798 enclosure map for Stoke Mandeville to the south of this location but appears not to have been extant by 1885. The buildings at Mill House Farm are undesignated.
- 4.3.13 It is possible that the farmstead lies in the locality of a former mill. The farmstead lies within a hedged enclosure and in 1885 the driveway exited the property to the south. The front elevations of the two houses now occupying the site face to the south.

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<sup>42</sup> Marsden, P., et al., (2012)

- 4.3.14 The value of Mill House Farm lies in the historical and architectural interest of the buildings shown on the 1st edition OS map of 1885 as an example of a post-enclosure farmstead. The relationship of these buildings with the rural setting in which they stand contributes to their value. The hedged enclosure in which these buildings stand effectively restricts their immediate setting to the surrounding gardens but the agricultural landscape which developed alongside these buildings serves as a backdrop which adds value.

### **Whitehorn Farm (SMA099)**

- 4.3.15 Whitehorn Farm (SMA096) is shown on the 1st edition OS map of 1885 as a farmstead to the south of Stoke Mandeville. Buildings are also shown here on the 1798 enclosure map for Stoke Mandeville, but appear to differ from those on the later map. The buildings shown on the 1st edition OS map are undesignated.
- 4.3.16 The value of Whitehorn farmhouse lies in its historical and architectural interest as an example of a post-enclosure farmhouse which has subsequently been converted to a non-agricultural use.
- 4.3.17 The setting is mainly constrained to the immediate grounds by enclosing shelterbelt and hedges. The agricultural landscape that it stood in has also changed with the recent re-alignment of the Risborough Road to the west although it remains preserved to the west.
- 4.3.18 The farmhouse now lies at the heart of a small hotel complex set within gardens screened from the Risborough Road by a shelterbelt. The front elevation of the farmhouse faces to the south.

### **Stoke Mandeville (SMA011)**

- 4.3.19 Stoke Mandeville (asset grouping SMA011) is a satellite suburb of Aylesbury that has developed from a rural village that had been established before Domesday and probably shifted to its present location during the later medieval period. Although there are a number of Grade II listed buildings within the core of the settlement, they do not define its character and there is no conservation area.
- 4.3.20 Jeffrey's county map of 1767 clearly shows Stoke Mandeville in its present location with the isolated St Mary's Church lying to the south of the village. At this date the settlement appears to be focussed around a wide central street or green which is preserved in its line, but not its width, by the present street pattern. Stoke Mandeville was subject to parliamentary enclosure in 1798 and the associated enclosure map is the first to clearly depict the settlement. Comparison of the enclosure map with the 1st edition OS map of 1885 shows very little change with the settlement basically comprising of a series of farms arranged along Risborough and Lower Roads with outlying farmsteads at Hall End, Moat Farm and Stoke House. The OS map also indicates the presence of a number of orchards on the periphery of the settlement. These orchards have all since been cleared, although their boundaries remain, often as hedges populated by mature trees, which provide a sense of enclosure to the historic core. A new church was built in the village centre in 1858.

- 4.3.21 After construction of the railway past Stoke Mandeville significant residential expansion took place during the 20th century, especially on the northern and eastern part of the settlement expanding alongside Station Road towards the A413.
- 4.3.22 The historic post-medieval core of Stoke Mandeville lies at its southern end on the Risborough and Lower Roads and remains connected with the predominantly rural landscape to the south. The north and east of the settlement is entirely characterised by 20th century residential development.
- 4.3.23 Stoke Mandeville is a good example of a post-medieval agricultural community focussed around an agglomeration of farmsteads that developed into a suburban village during the 20th century. The historic core of Stoke Mandeville lies at its southern end on the Risborough and Lower Roads and remains connected with the predominantly rural landscape to the south. This connection contributes to the value of the settlement. The north and east of the settlement is entirely characterised by 20th century residential development which does not contribute to the value of the settlement.
- 4.3.24 There is some contribution to the value of the settlement from the predominantly agricultural setting in which the village lies, especially on the southern periphery where the closes depicted on the enclosure map of 1798 still survive alongside the earthworks of deserted/shrunken medieval settlement. The hedging of these enclosures, which often includes mature trees, along with modern infill serves to mainly block any direct view from the historic core outward. They are probably long established hedgerows pre-dating the 1798 enclosure of the parish and represent closes for paddocks, horticulture and orchard that were established in the early post-medieval period. These features all combine to provide a coherent and legible historical context in which this edge of the settlement can be understood and appreciated.

### **Brook Cottage (SMA013)**

- 4.3.25 Brook Cottage (SMA013) is a Grade II listed brick house of 18th century date with some later additions. Brook Cottage lies on Marsh Lane and to the south of the stream that once formed the boundary between Stoke Mandeville with Ellesborough. Brook Cottage is marked as Brook Farm on the 1st edition OS map of 1885.
- 4.3.26 The value of this asset lies in it being an example of a post-medieval farmhouse and its relationship with the rural agricultural landscape in which it lies.
- 4.3.27 Brook Farm is a relatively isolated homestead set within a square hedged enclosure of mature trees, the outline of which is shown on the 1805 enclosure map for Ellesborough.
- 4.3.28 The landscape in which this asset lies is principally a construct of post-medieval parliamentary enclosure which has changed little since the turn of the 19th century. Its rural location within an agricultural landscape that has developed alongside the farmstead contributes to its value.

## Old Moat Farmhouse (SMA022)

- 4.3.29 Old Moat Farmhouse (SMA022) is a Grade II listed timber framed house with some fabric dating to at least as early as 1500<sup>43</sup>. This early part of the house appears to be a chamber block that is likely to have been an extension to an earlier hall building<sup>44</sup>. The building was altered significantly in the 17th century with further rebuilding undertaken in the 19th century. The house lies within a double moated enclosure with further water filled features nearby suggesting further ponds and/or leats are associated with the house. The size of the house and the presence of the moats and other water filled features suggest that Old Moat Farmhouse may be one of the manorial centres recorded at Stoke Mandeville, although no documentary basis has yet been identified to confirm this<sup>45</sup>. The 1st edition OS map of 1885 records the farm as Lower Farm.
- 4.3.30 Old Moat Farmhouse lies to the north of a stream although the present access is from the south by a track which parallels the south side of the stream before crossing it on a bridge. A range of large modern agricultural barns and sheds lie to the south of the stream considerably reducing the view from the house to the south. Large modern outbuildings are also present to the south-east of the farmhouse. Old Moat Farmhouse is recorded as Lower Farm on the 1st edition OS of 1885 and can also be identified on the Stoke Mandeville enclosure map of 1798.
- 4.3.31 Old Moat Farm could represent colonisation/reclamation of additional land at Stoke Mandeville (potentially reclamation of marshland) in the later medieval period. The long thin property boundaries, with slight curves along Lower Road to the north of Old Moat Farm, suggest that these boundaries follow former selion (medieval open field division into a strip) boundaries within an open field system lying on the higher ground.
- 4.3.32 The value of this asset lies in its historical and architectural interest as an example of a medieval farmhouse with later alterations and its association with the other buildings that make up the farmstead. Its association with the surrounding agricultural landscape contributes to this value, especially with regard to the enclosures of the Stoke Mandeville village envelope (SMA096).
- 4.3.33 The evidential interest inherent in the buried archaeology which it contains also contributes to its value.

## Hall End (SMA023)

- 4.3.34 Hall End (SMA023) is a Grade II listed timber framed house which is attributed a 17th century date by its listing entry. The house is accessed by a driveway leading north to Lower Road which had become established at least by the depiction of the house on the 1798 enclosure map for Stoke Mandeville. It has been suggested that Hall End may

<sup>43</sup> John Moore Heritage Services, (2008), *Archaeological Building Recording at Old Moat Farmhouse, Marsh Lane, Stoke Mandeville*.

<sup>44</sup> John Moore Heritage Services, (2008)

<sup>45</sup> John Moore Heritage Services, (2008)

be the location of the manor of Stoke Halling mentioned in a document of 1535<sup>46</sup> although no corroborative evidence is yet known.

- 4.3.35 The value of this asset lies in its historical and architectural interest as a post-medieval farmhouse and its relationship with the rural agricultural landscape in which it lies. This relationship is particularly important with regard to the enclosures of the Stoke Mandeville village envelope (SMA096).
- 4.3.36 The rural landscape in which Hall End lies is principally a construct of post-medieval parliamentary enclosure which has changed little in the nature of its land division since the turn of the 19th century. Aspects of the landscape immediately to the north along Lower Lane may, however, preserve aspects of medieval land division in the form of former selion (medieval open field division into a strip) boundaries in the open field system associated with Stoke Mandeville.
- 4.3.37 The evidential interest inherent in the buried archaeology which it contains will also contribute to its value.

### **Standalls Farm (SMA030)**

- 4.3.38 Standalls Farm is an outlying farmstead at Bishopstone that potentially has its origins in the medieval period. The farmhouse is Grade II listed and is an example of an early 18th century farmhouse which remains isolated within an agricultural landscape.
- 4.3.39 The setting in which these assets lie is almost entirely rural and agricultural in nature and comprises both arable fields and pastureland. Ridge and furrow associated with a medieval open field system survives as earthworks to the west and north of the farm. Rising ground and hedgerows, recent barns and other outbuildings prevent views to the north. Views from the farmhouse are, therefore, restricted to its front elevation, which faces to the south.
- 4.3.40 Buried archaeological features that are no longer visible, but could inform on the farmstead's development, could also contribute to its value. This includes the earthwork remains of ridge and furrow (SMA031) which lie around the farmstead which lend time depth to the understanding of the site as an agricultural concern.

### **Sedrup (SMA041)**

- 4.3.41 Sedrup (SMA041) is a small hamlet loosely arranged around what may be a small green or common and has clear views over a shallow valley towards Aylesbury. The settlement contains seven Grade II listed buildings, principally cottages built in the unusual local vernacular of wickert (a combination of chalk marl and straw). The hamlet and associated farmsteads are designated as a conservation area.
- 1.1.2 The value of this asset lies in the historical and architectural interest of the buildings which include good examples of the local wickert vernacular. The interrelationship of these buildings as a hamlet and their shared relationship with the agricultural landscape in which they lie contributes to this value. This landscape immediately around the hamlet (SMA100) has coherent time depth and historical legibility with

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<sup>46</sup> Marsden, P., et al., (2012)

survival of ridge and furrow and early post-medieval enclosures. The clear connection between Sedrup and this landscape adds to its value.

- 4.3.42 The setting is almost entirely rural and agricultural in nature and comprises both arable fields and pastureland. The hamlet lies to the north of a crest line and has open views across agricultural land northwards towards Aylesbury. The hamlet includes medieval village earthworks, possible quarrying and has a good survival of ridge and furrow in the surrounding fields. These all add to the coherence and historical legibility of the hamlet.

- 1.1.3 The evidential interest inherent in the buried archaeology which it contains will also contribute to the value. .

### **The Bugle Horn (SMA045)**

- 4.3.43 The Bugle Horn (SMA045) is a Grade II listed 18th century inn lying on a busy road corner at the junction of the road to Bishopstone and Sedrup with the A418 Thame Road. Its setting is defined by its roadside location from which it continues to derive its trade.

### **Upper Hartwell (SMA052)**

- 4.3.44 Upper Hartwell (SMA052) lies between the village of Stone and the parkland at Hartwell. The hamlet includes two Grade II listed building set within the Upper Hartwell conservation area.
- 4.3.45 The settlement is set amongst what are probably early post-medieval enclosures which are predominantly hedged and which gives the settlement a sense of being enclosed with limited outward views. Some glimpsed views are possible from the periphery of the settlement across the rural agricultural landscape between Upper and Lower Hartwell (SMA053). By contrast good views can be had from the footpaths around Lower Hartwell towards Upper Hartwell.
- 4.3.46 The value of Upper Hartwell lies in its historical and architectural interest as a hamlet which included post-medieval buildings constructed in the local witchert vernacular and its relationship with the agricultural landscape that lies to its north and links Upper Hartwell with Lower Hartwell (SMA053).
- 4.3.47 An appreciation of Upper Hartwell within an agricultural landscape that has developed alongside it can be had in the distant views across this landscape from Lower Hartwell.

### **Lower Hartwell (SMA053)**

- 4.3.48 Lower Hartwell (SMA053) is a hamlet comprising former estate houses and farmsteads extending along Hartwell Lane. The hamlet at Lower Hartwell was once larger and extended into area now occupied by the parkland to the east; much of this was cleared in the 17th century to establish the grounds of Hartwell House (SMA050).
- 4.3.49 Seven Grade II listed buildings and structures lie along Lower Hartwell Lane: Lower Hartwell Farmhouse, Park Cottage, 1 and 3 Lower Hartwell, Wren's Cottage, Scragg's

and Spring's Cottage, The Springs and The Egyptian Seat. All are included within the Hartwell conservation area.

- 4.3.50 The Egyptian Seat is a well and spring designed by Joseph Bonomi in the mid-19th century to complement his additions to the parkland at Hartwell; the remaining listed buildings are vernacular farm and estate houses dating between the 17th and 19th centuries.
- 4.3.51 To the west of Hartwell Lane lies part of the Hartwell estate called Hothouse Piece which was developed in the late 18th century as Lady Elizabeth Lee's flower garden. Hartwell Lane is a sunken lane within woodland as it passes between the inner park at Hartwell to the east and Hothouse Piece to the west; the lane is narrow and little used except for access to the hamlet.
- 4.3.52 Once the lane passes into the hamlet of Lower Hartwell the views open up over a rural landscape, predominantly pasture land. The avenue extending north from Hartwell House is clearly visible within the fields to the east of the lane as it passes the hamlet at Lower Hartwell.
- 4.3.53 Medieval ridge and furrow is visible within the fields to either side of the lane at this point and further village earthworks appear to be present in the fields to the north and west of Lower Hartwell Farm.
- 4.3.54 The value of the Egyptian Seat lies almost entirely in it being an architectural and thematic feature of Joseph Bonomi's mid-19th century additions to the parkland at Hartwell. Its location on the lane leading to Lower Hartwell contributes to this value.
- 4.3.55 The value of the medieval ridge and furrow and other potential village earthworks at Lower Hartwell lies principally in their buried archaeological resource. Their location, however in and around the hamlet at Lower Hartwell lends time depth to the appreciation of the history of the settlement and its association with Hartwell House and park.

### **Whaddon Hill Farmhouse (SMAo61)**

- 4.3.56 Whaddon Hill Farmhouse dates to the 18th century and is an example of a large isolated brick farmhouse built for a wealthy farming family and/or as part of an estate farm.
- 4.3.57 Whaddon Hill Farmhouse was built for a wealthy farming family and/or as part of an estate farm. Buildings are first clearly shown in this locality on the Hartwell and Stone estate map of 1776, although the current farmhouse is not depicted, suggesting that it was built after this date. Instead the buildings depicted on this map appear to have no access track leading to them and could be field barns. It is possible that the low barn to the north of the existing farmhouse is one of these earlier buildings. The present farmhouse is first clearly shown on the Hartwell and Stone estate map of 1842.
- 4.3.58 The farmhouse faces south and it is in this direction that its principal views lie extending beyond an area of lawn over farmland towards Lower Hartwell and Stone. To the north the farmhouse is hemmed in by relatively modern agricultural sheds and



barns that have been extended westwards. To the east of the farmhouse a small copse effectively screens views to or from it from this direction. The farm lies below the crest of a low ridgeline, which blocks views to the west. The principal access to the farm is by a farm track from the east, which swings south to link with the hamlet at Lower Hartwell.

- 4.3.59 The rural landscape in which this asset lies is principally a result of post-medieval Parliamentary enclosure which has changed little in the nature of its land divisions since the turn of the 19th century, although since the 1880s woodland belts have been added immediately to the south of the house and around the east and north edges of the large field to its north. The farmhouse can, therefore, be appreciated in a wider landscape that has changed little in recent centuries although the modern sheds and barns to the north intrude into this historic character.
- 1.1.4 The farmhouse's relationship with its associated farm buildings and with the agricultural landscape in which it lies contributes to its value.

### Haydon Mill (SMAo64)

- 4.3.60 Haydon Mill (SMAo64) is a Grade II listed building with associated grounds and outbuildings.
- 4.3.61 The current mill building dates to 1834 and is built in red and yellow stock brick. A mill has existed in this location since at least the medieval period and in the post-medieval period was part of the Hampden holdings at Hartwell. The mill became a focus in the designed landscape created at Hartwell in the 18th century with the avenue being aligned within the northern part of the outer park to sight on the mill at Haydon and beyond that to the Hampden holding at Quarrendon.
- 4.3.62 The mill and its outbuildings still form a coherent complex on the edge of the residential area of Coldharbour and the Rabans Lane industrial estate. The immediate setting of the mill remains predominantly rural in character and the line of the Hartwell Avenue is marked by mature avenue trees to the south. Although this avenue was aligned on the building(s) that the current mill building replaced the association still contributes to its value. Surrounding hedges provide a sense of enclosure and help screen the complex from the recent developments to the east and north.
- 4.3.63 The immediate environment of the mill and associated buildings remains fundamentally rural in nature and the avenue to the south remains clearly defined by two rows of mature trees. The location is publically accessible by a bridle path that forms one of the heritage walks around Aylesbury.
- 4.3.64 The mill building and its outbuildings are a good example of an 18th and 19th century grain mill. The buried archaeological resource that may inform on the early development of the mill during the medieval and early post-medieval periods is also a factor in attributing it value.
- 4.3.65 When considering the setting, the historic link via the avenue to the south leading to Hartwell House forms a key aspect as it retains a bucolic feel as an outer part of the parkland at Hartwell. This avenue lies within the northern section of both the RPG and

conservation area at Hartwell. This contributes to the value of the asset. The historic link northwards as an extension of this designed avenue leading to Quarrendon has already been lost due to the development of the Rabans Lane industrial estate.

### **Putlowes Farm (SMAo88)**

- 4.3.66 Putlowes is a farmstead depicted on the 1st Edition OS map of 1885. This farmstead can be considered to have some historical, aesthetic and architectural interest as an example of a post enclosure farmstead.
- 4.3.67 The relationship of the farm with the agricultural landscape in which it lies contributes to its value.
- 4.3.68 The presence of well-preserved ridge and furrow and early post-medieval enclosures in this area lends time depth and historical coherence to the setting of this asset and adds to its value.

### **St Mary's Church, Fleet Marston (SMAo85)**

- 4.3.69 The St Mary's Church stands isolated within a tree hedged enclosure on a low knoll to the north of the A41. The church is an important example of medieval ecclesiastical architecture first built in the 12th century with extensive alterations made in the 14th and 15th centuries. The church was associated with the medieval settlement at Fleet Marston which was abandoned in the later medieval and earlier post-medieval periods. Evidence for this settlement has been recognised as cropmarks and earthworks around the church and in the fields to the north of the A41. Further evidence for this settlement has been recorded from archaeological investigations undertaken to the north of the A41.
- 4.3.70 Although not in regular use, services are periodically held in the church. The church is also the site where John Wesley preached his first sermon following his ordination. This continued communal use and the biographical association contribute to the value.
- 4.3.71 The church is isolated within pastureland to the north of the A41. Access to the site is restricted and lies through Wayside Farm, which lies adjacent to the A41.
- 4.3.72 The relationship of the church with the buried remains of the medieval village that it was once associated with will contribute to its value.
- 4.3.73 The landscape in which this asset lies is principally a construct of post-medieval enclosure. The immediate setting can be viewed as ending to its west on the A41.

### **Fleet Marston Farmhouse (SMAo91)**

- 4.3.74 This asset has value as an example of a late 17th century farmhouse which was altered in the 18th and 19th centuries and remains at the heart of post-medieval farmstead. The relationship of the farmhouse with the other farm buildings that form the farmstead and agricultural landscape in which it lies contributes to its value.

- 4.3.75 The farm buildings lie within a tree hedged enclosure which screens the farmstead from all views in and out. The setting is therefore mainly confined to the area within this enclosure. Any wider setting is also interrupted by the A41.

#### **4.4 Selected designated built heritage assets within the ZTV**

- 4.4.1 The criterion for inclusion within this section is that the Proposed Scheme is assessed in the Impact Assessment Table in CH-003-011 as having a major or moderate adverse effect upon a designated asset which lies within the ZTV, but outside of the 500m study area. Descriptions and considerations of the significance of all designated assets within the ZTV can be found in the Gazetteer in CH-002-011.
- 4.4.2 There are no designated heritage assets within the Stoke Mandeville to Aylesbury study area which are located within the ZTV, but outside of the 500m study, that are deemed to have a major or moderate adverse effect as a result of the Proposed Scheme.

## 5 Historic map regression

- 5.1.1 The analysis of the cartographic evidence for the study area has been integrated within the archaeological and historical baseline narrative (Sections 3, 4, 6 and 7 of this appendix).

## 6 Historic landscape

### 6.1 Aylesbury Vale Environmental Character Assessment

- 6.1.1 The Aylesbury Vale Environmental Character Assessment<sup>47</sup> identifies eight landscape character zones or units that the route2 will cross: Stoke Mandeville, Stoke Mandeville - Weston Turville, Aylesbury Urban, Bishopstone Farmland, Hartwell Park, Thame Valley, Winchendon Hills and Northern Vale.

#### Stoke Mandeville

- 6.1.2 The historic core of Stoke Mandeville lies on the western edge of the settlement although this represents a shift of settlement in the 15th to 17th centuries from an earlier focus to the south around the deserted and demolished St Mary's Church.
- 6.1.3 The character of Stoke Mandeville can be defined by the fabric of its built environment and the setting in which it lies. The immediate 'Village Envelope' in which Stoke Mandeville rests comprises a patchwork of small fields and closes, often encompassed by older, mature and species rich hedgerows with frequent trees. This patchwork is likely to date to the 15th to 17th centuries and is particularly well preserved on the south-western edge of the village, and especially around Old Moat Farm to the west.
- 6.1.4 A medieval or possibly even earlier landscape is also partially preserved in the area around the demolished St Mary's Church at Stoke Mandeville (SMA003) where what may be a relatively early church enclosure lies in an area between two streams or leats. The church enclosure may also contain the buried remains of a medieval manor house and the buried remains of a mill or mills may also be present beside the leats. Mill House Farm (SMA095) may stand on the site of one of the medieval mills, although the existing range of buildings are 19th century in date at the earliest.

#### *The Stoke Mandeville village envelope (SMA096)*

- 6.1.5 The Stoke Mandeville Village Envelope comprises a landscape component in which early post-medieval enclosures predominate and which in part preserve the boundaries of former medieval selion boundaries, especially between Manor Farm and Old Moat Farm (SMA022). The landscape component contains the moated sites at Old Moat Farm (SMA022), Hall End (SMA023) and to the north of Brook Cottage (SMA012) as well as the medieval village earthworks (SMA010) immediately to the south of Stoke Mandeville. As the setting in which all of these features lie this landscape component adds considerably to their value.
- 6.1.6 This landscape component is a good example of an early post-medieval (pre 18th century) landscape of enclosure that preserves some aspects of the medieval landscape from which it developed. It is, therefore, a landscape with clear historical integrity in which the relationship of the assets which lie within it and contribute to it is clearly legible.

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<sup>47</sup> Aylesbury Vale District Council and Buckinghamshire County Council, (2006), *Aylesbury Vale Environmental Character Assessment: Historic Environment Assessment- Aylesbury*.

- 6.1.7 This landscape component is restricted to the northern side of the tributary of the Bear Brook which passes to the south of Stoke Mandeville and its influence on the settings of heritage assets is similarly restricted to within this area. The area to the south of this tributary adds little to the value of either this landscape component or the elements that it contains.

### *St Mary's Church, Stoke Mandeville landscape (SMA097)*

- 6.1.8 The landscape component around the demolished St Mary's Church is an area in which an early post-medieval landscape survives and in which elements of an earlier medieval landscape are clearly visible. The focus of this landscape is the demolished St Mary's Church which is set within a graveyard (SMA003). The graveyard was last used for burial in 1908. The buried archaeological remains of medieval fishponds, a possible manorial site with at least one mill with Saxon origins and a medieval village are probably associated with the church enclosure. A secondary focus is the system of moats (SMA006) around Stoke House (SMA007) which marks the location of a second probable later medieval manorial site. Mill House Farm (SMA095) is a post-enclosure addition to this landscape but may lie in the location of a former mill.
- 6.1.9 The system of stream channels within this landscape are contributing elements and may include sections of mill leat. The hedgerows (SMA002, SMA005 and SMA008) that partition this asset all follow boundaries marked on 1798 enclosure map for Stoke Mandeville and their association with an asset recorded by the HER means that they meet the historical and archaeological criteria of the hedgerows regulations 1997. These hedgerows are also integral elements in understanding how this landscape developed in the post-medieval period.
- 6.1.10 This asset is a well preserved early post-medieval enclosure landscape. The buried archaeological resource contributes to the value. This landscape forms an integral part of the settings of Stoke House (SMA007), its associated moats (SMA006) and the St Marys church enclosure (SMA003).

### **Stoke Mandeville - Weston Turville**

- 6.1.11 This is an area of farmland predominantly characterised by a farmland created by parliamentary enclosure but with some earlier smaller enclosures to the north and west of Stoke Mandeville that can likely be dated to the 15th to 17th centuries. Parts of the parliamentary enclosure have also been fragmented by more recent field amalgamation and divisions. The area is relatively bare of mature trees and what trees are present are generally within hedgerows.

### **Aylesbury urban**

- 6.1.12 This area comprises of the built up area of Aylesbury. The historic town core is surrounded by modern, mainly 20th and 21st century, residential development. This modern development includes the suburbs of Walton Court and Coldharbour that bound the northern edge of Bishopstone Farmland and Hartwell Park. This modern development has little or no historic landscape character value although a historic mill and farmstead lies on the southern edge of this area at Haydon Mill (SMA064), but falls within the Thame Valley character zone.

### **Bishopstone farmland**

- 6.1.13 This landscape character zone predominantly comprises large fields bounded by hawthorn hedges created by the parliamentary enclosure act for Hartwell and Stone of 1777. There are also a number of older and smaller closes and paddocks focussed around the hamlet of Sedrup that likely date to the 15th to 17th centuries.
- 6.1.14 Medieval ridge and furrow survives as earthworks around the farmstead of Standalls Farm (SMA030) and the hamlet of Sedrup (SMA041). The built character of this area includes a locally distinctive style with witchert (clay and limestone) render. The area is unusual in the Aylesbury region in the number of mature trees that are incorporated within the local hedgerows.
- 6.1.15 Overall the survival of both the 18th century enclosure and earlier closes in this area is relatively good.

### ***The Sedrup landscape (SMA100)***

- 6.1.16 The Sedrup landscape component is a well preserved area of early post-medieval enclosures in which elements of the pre-existing medieval open field system survives as areas of ridge and furrow (SMA046 and SMA047). The focus of this landscape is the hamlet of Sedrup (SMA041) with the outlying farmsteads at Calley and Sedrup Farms. The landscape component forms an integral part of the setting for the hamlet at Sedrup.

### **Hartwell Park**

- 6.1.17 Hartwell Park (SMA050) is a designed landscape first laid out around Hartwell House in the 17th century and subsequently redesigned to an early 18th century formal plan before being further re-designed to a more naturalised style favoured in the late 18th century. Further alterations to the size and form of the parkland were made in the 19th century with the inclusion of the large areas to the east of the inner park that is now dominated by a modern golf course. This landscape is described in detail in section 6.2 of this appendix.

### **Thame Valley**

- 6.1.18 The Thame Valley landscape character zone is a locally rare example of an area dominated by irregular pre 18th century enclosures that extends around Hartwell Park and forms a crucial facet of its setting. This landscape character zone also serves to link the early historic parkland at Hartwell to the south with the later Rothschild parklands of Eythrope (SMA070) and Waddesdon (in the Waddesdon and Quanton study area) to the north.
- 6.1.19 There has been some loss of field boundaries within this area to recent field amalgamation but overall it is considered to be a good survival of late medieval and early post-medieval enclosure. Elements of medieval open field agriculture are also relatively well preserved, especially within the pasture land that lies adjacent to the western and northern sections of Hartwell Park (SMA050). The northernmost section of this landscape character zone has, however, been wholly changed by modern quarrying.

- 6.1.20 Settlement in this area comprises the ribbon hamlet of Lower Hartwell (asset grouping SMA053) focussed on what is likely to be a medieval farmstead at Lower Hartwell Farm (within asset grouping SMA053) and the isolated farmstead of Whaddon Hill Farm (SMA061). Another farmstead is focussed around Haydon Mill (SMA064), which may be located on the site of a medieval mill.

### Winchenden hills

- 6.1.21 Winchenden hills predominantly lies within the parish of Waddesdon but includes the western edge of the parish of Fleet Marston.
- 6.1.22 This landscape character zone is another locally rare example of irregular enclosures that pre-date the 18th century. Many of these enclosures remain as meadowland. On the ridge of Portland Stone and extending to the valley floor of the Thame Valley lies Eythrope Park (SMA070) which was first laid out as a pleasure ground in the 18th century, but subsequently re-designed in the late 19th century for Alice de Rothschild. Most of this parkland now lies under arable cultivation with some areas of pasture and frequent relatively large stands of mature woodland.
- 6.1.23 This parkland also encompasses the scheduled monument of well preserved earthworks of the deserted medieval village of Eythrope (SMA071). Medieval ridge and furrow is also visible on the valley side to the north of the village earthworks (within SMA071).
- 6.1.24 The ground slopes down from the north-eastern edge of the parkland at Eythrope into the Aylesbury Vale. This is again an area in which pre 18th century enclosures predominate, many of them remaining as pasture, especially near Putlowes (SMA088). Well preserved ridge and furrow (SMA094) survives as earthworks near Putlowes and on the slope between Sheepcot Hill and Upper Cranwell Farms.
- 6.1.25 Outside of the Eythrope parkland there are few trees which are generally concentrated within the local hedgerows. The parish boundary between Fleet Marston and Waddesdon (SMA069) is particularly prominent in this area due to the presence of mature woodland along much of its length.

### Northern vale

- 6.1.26 This landscape character zone lies to the north of Aylesbury and incorporates parts of the parishes of Fleet Marston, Quarrendon and Aylesbury.
- 6.1.27 The area to the north of the A41 has a coherent survival of large irregular fields that were likely enclosed for sheep pasture by the Lee family in the 15th to early 16th centuries. The area also contains swathes of meadowland in the valley floor of the Thame Valley and its tributaries that is likely to have been used for grazing since at least the medieval period. The area to the north of the A41 also contains the scheduled monument of the remains of the deserted medieval village, Tudor mansion and Tudor garden at Quarrendon (SMA078).
- 6.1.28 The area to the south of the A41 is not as distinctive and incorporates parts of the pre 18th century enclosure extending north from the River Thame to Putlowes, then 19th century enclosure to the north of Putlowes Farm (SMA088) and modern prairie fields



extending north of Putlowes Cottages. This area contains what is likely to be the core of the buried remains of the Romano-British small town at Fleet Marston (SMA074). To the north-east of the A41 lies the isolated 11th century St Mary's Church at Fleet Marston (SMA085), which is surrounded by the buried remains of the medieval village of Fleet Marston (SMA090). Aerial photography and LiDAR also indicate the presence of ridge and furrow and very likely associated headlands in this area (see Appendix CH-004-011).

- 6.1.29 Near Putlowes there are extensive areas of pasture in which ridge and furrow (SMA094) still survives as earthworks. Elsewhere the fields are predominantly arable. There are very few trees except those within the local hedgerows.

## 6.2 Historic parks and gardens

### Introduction

- 6.2.1 An aspect of the post-medieval landscape was the creation of private parkland, often designed as pleasure grounds for the aristocracy and rising gentrified class.

### Hartwell House and parkland (SMA050)

- 6.2.2 The designed landscape at Hartwell has its origins as the grounds of a country house belonging to the Lee family who held Hartwell for over three centuries between the late 16th and mid-20th centuries. Five main phases of landscaping are represented:
- a formal planting of topiary commencing in the 1690s and extended in the 1720s, possibly to a scheme by the local gardener James Neale;
  - a formal garden laid out in the 1730s, possibly as part of a design by the architect James Gibbs;
  - a reworking of the formal garden in the 1760s to create a landscape park to a design by the landscape architect Richard Woods, a student of Lancelot "Capability" Brown;
  - an extension of the parkland in the 1850s incorporating features designed by the leading Victorian Egyptologist Joseph Bonomi; and
  - establishment of the Aylesbury Park Golf Course and playing fields within the outer parkland during the 1990s.
- 6.2.3 The Lee family had links by marriage to the 17th century parliamentarian and libertarian, John Hampden and by the 18th century the Lee family were staunch supporters of the Whig cause for a strong constitutional government.
- 6.2.4 The earliest recorded garden at Hartwell dates to the 1690s when Sir Thomas Lee had a formal topiary garden created in the Dutch style; this may have been extended in the 1720s to a planting developed by James Neale. These gardens used yew plantings, geometrical ponds and pathways all within a scheme of gravel and turf allées. This topiary and geometric scheme appears to have been used as a frame in which to hang the final formal garden design at Hartwell, which may be attributable to the architect James Gibbs although, unusually, there is no evidence to indicate that Gibbs's usual partner in garden design, Charles Bridgeman, was involved. The final formal garden

design at Hartwell reflected the Lee family's political aspirations as supporters of the Whig faction in parliament and especially of George II's heir Prince Frederick.

- 6.2.5 An important aspect for the formal garden was an ornamental canal to the east of the house, which ran on a north south alignment with a pavilion forming a grand focus at its south end; statuary flanked this canal. A number of the structures in the park are of a design depicted by James Gibbs in his *Book of Architecture*<sup>48</sup> and Gibbs is known to have undertaken work at Hartwell House in 1740. Some of the statuary in this garden including the statue of George II may also be attributed to the French sculptor Pierre Legros.
- 6.2.6 A number of these structures and statues are painted in their original locations in a series of paintings dating to 1738 by the Spanish landscape painter Balthazaar Nebot. Nebot also painted the great formal garden at Studley Royal, but his paintings of Hartwell are superior to these<sup>49</sup>.
- 6.2.7 Nebot's paintings are also of interest in that they show the Whiggish political aspirations of the Lee family set within an informal and rather whimsical rustic landscape populated by the Lee family, their contemporary political benefactors (including Prince Frederick), historical figures including John Hampden "The Great Patriot", their agricultural labourers and their servants.
- 6.2.8 Nebot's paintings also show the relationship between the formal garden at Hartwell and its surrounding landscape, including visual links to the churches of St Mary at Aylesbury and (now demolished) Stoke Mandeville (SMA003) and the hills overlooking Quarrendon. Nebot's paintings are further supported in their description of the formal gardens at Hartwell and how this reflected the Lee family's Whiggish leanings by a poem by the contemporary Aylesbury poet Alexander Merrick.
- 6.2.9 The formal gardens depicted by Nebot depict the use of topiary screens and features such as the rusticated arch to direct views; the paintings also show that at this date the house and gardens lay within a relatively open landscape with views towards Aylesbury, Stoke Mandeville, Quainton, Quarrendon and Eythrope. The key views identified from Nebot's paintings are:
- a framed view from the east side of Hartwell taking in the tower of St Mary's Church in Aylesbury (within asset grouping SMA048);
  - a view from the area south of Hartwell House through the rusticated arch framing a view of the former church tower of the now demolished St Mary's Church, Stoke Mandeville (part of asset grouping SMA003); and
  - the view north from Hartwell House along the tree lined avenue towards the village and Lee mansion at Quarrendon (SMA078).
- 6.2.10 The view towards Stoke Mandeville no longer exists and the church framed in the picture has now been demolished. The view north along the avenue remains the key

<sup>48</sup> Gibbs, J., (1728), *A Book of Architecture, containing designs of buildings and ornaments*.

<sup>49</sup> Harris, J., (1974), *The artist and the country house*, Sotheby's. London.

view from the house and its immediate grounds; the view eastwards from the house towards St Mary's Church, Aylesbury is obstructed by more recent planting, but a glimpse can be had from the library and parts of the eastern garden terrace.

- 6.2.11 The formal garden was re-worked in the 1750s to 1760s for Sir William Lee to create a Palladian setting for Hartwell House. Work was undertaken to modernise the house by Henry Keene while the grounds were recreated as a naturalised parkland landscape by Richard Woods. Again the design and use of statuary and garden structures reflected the Whiggish leanings of the Lee family. A painting attributed to William Hately<sup>50</sup> dating to circa 1757 may show aspects of this transformation from the formal to the naturalised.
- 6.2.12 The original canal appears to have been infilled following a severe drought in the 1740s and was replaced in the new scheme by two more naturalised ornamental lakes to the north-east of the house. The location of the original canal is, however, clearly visible to ground survey as an area of richer grass growth with adjacent parchmarks.
- 6.2.13 During this re-creation of the landscape many of the structures and statuary of the original formal gardens were moved to new locations. These include the rusticated arch (moved to its present location at the entrance lodge), the gothic tower, the statue of William III (who was replaced on the moved pedestal by George II) and a number of other busts. This landscaping also saw the clearance of most of the earlier formal topiary and the construction of the icehouse to the north-east of the house, set within a large mound. The gothic St Mary's Church was also built into this evolving landscape, to a design by Keene, between 1753 and 1755 and incorporated a view eastwards across the north front across the end of the new lakes and thence towards Aylesbury. In 1757 the Lee's commissioned the equestrian statue of Prince Frederick in lead. With Frederick's untimely death in 1759, this statue was placed within the area to the south of the garden, only recently being moved to the present plinth in front of the north entrance to Hartwell House.
- 6.2.14 Work appears to have continued on the Hartwell parkland throughout the later 18th century with the addition of a bridge, designed in 1780 by James Wyatt across the south end of the ornamental lake as a focus of the view from the gothic church. Further plantings may have been commissioned by Lady Elizabeth Lee to the south and south-east of the house, influenced by the poet William Mason.
- 6.2.15 The house was leased to Louis XVIII between 1809 and 1813, earning him the epithet 'The Sage of Hartwell'; Louis was accompanied by his wife, Maria Josepha, who died at Hartwell in 1809.
- 6.2.16 The parkland was much extended during the mid-19th century with the addition of new areas of outer park to the east of the entrance drive that now makes up the golf course and public playing fields. Some alteration during the 1850s was undertaken to designs by the Victorian Egyptologist Joseph Bonomi, including the addition of the Egyptian Spring on Hartwell Lane. The eastern section added in the 1850s and now incorporating the golf course and public sports pitches does not have the same quality

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<sup>50</sup> Harris, J., (1974).

of deliberate design or have a commensurate level of historical context, legibility and coherence as the inner park immediately around Hartwell House.

- 6.2.17 The Palladian landscape created immediately around the House in the later 18th century largely survives to this day. The landscape was probably originally more open towards Aylesbury to the east, but the key view remains the view northward along the avenue.
- 6.2.18 The parkland at Hartwell is bounded to the south by the busy A418, to the east by the southern suburban edge of Aylesbury, to the west by the hamlets of Lower and Upper Hartwell (SMA052 and SMA053) and to the north by agricultural land (predominantly pasture) which extends to the edge of Aylesbury to the north-east and into the Vale of Aylesbury between the Eythrope and Quainton ridges to the north.
- 6.2.19 The parkland can be divided into five principal character zones; these comprise:
- the inner park (Park Hill and Lower Park Meadow);
  - the outer park (eastern section) (Upper and Lower Abbot's Hill);
  - the outer park (northern section) and avenue (The Long Avenue); and
  - the A418 corridor.

#### *The Inner Park (Park Hill and Lower Park Meadow)*

- 6.2.20 The inner park is characterised by the naturalised Palladian landscape created immediately around Hartwell House during the later 18th century; this encompasses Park Meadow, Park Hill and Lower Park Meadow. The backdrop that this parkland provides as the setting for Hartwell House is its principal value; however the parkland itself is of a quality that lends it historic value in its own right. The links to Hartwell House and the thinking and iconography behind the landscape design, reflecting the political tastes and aspirations of the Lee family, provide further weight and depth to the parkland's value.
- 6.2.21 This significance is further strengthened by the likely association of the architect James Gibbs and sculptor Pierre Legros with the earlier formal garden and the certain association of the architects Henry Keene and James Wyatt, the landscape architect Richard Woods and the sculptor John Cheere with the later naturalised park design.
- 6.2.22 Other historic links, including to the parliamentarian Hampden family, Frederick Prince of Wales, the artwork of Balthazaar Nebot, the poetry of Alexander Merrick, the portrait painter Sir Joshua Reynolds, the exiled King Louis XVIII and his court and the Victorian polymaths Dr John Lee and Joseph Bonomi further reinforce the value of both house and garden.
- 6.2.23 The landscape of the inner park mainly comprises pastureland enclosed to the east and south by belts of trees. This scheme is clearly identifiable as the naturalised landscape created by Richard Woods and contains many features first commissioned for the pre-existing formal garden that may have been designed by James Gibbs.

- 6.2.24 To the north of the house the inner park encompasses a section of the Long Avenue that extends northwards towards Quarrendon; to the south it encompasses Beech Walk along the southern perimeter and the original main entrance framed by what may be Gibbs' original rusticated arch.
- 6.2.25 The inner park now has no views outward except along the avenue to the north, although a very restricted view eastward towards Aylesbury is possible from the some rooms in the eastern wing of the house and adjacent terrace.
- 6.2.26 The view along the avenue from the north side of the house extends for at least 1.75km and despite the inclusion of recent plantings within the avenue can be clearly understood as a designed view.
- 6.2.27 The new location of the equestrian statue of Prince Frederick atop a plinth effectively blocks this view from the north door of the house; this view also contains at its centre a modern pylon in the far distance, although this is partially hidden by the massing of the hills above Quainton beyond it.
- 6.2.28 The inner park is clearly of a quality to merit its inclusion as part of a Grade II\* RPG in terms of design, survival and historical association. Although Richard Woods is not as well-known as his mentor Capability Brown, his designs are still exemplars of the late 18th century fashion in landscape design. Wood's landscape design for the inner park at Hartwell is perhaps one of his finest works and despite the compact area in which his theme could be developed, the design is very well presented and could clearly have influenced how other notables of the period laid out their own estates<sup>51</sup>.
- 6.2.29 Hartwell House and the inner park, which immediately surrounds it, presently has no public access. The lease for the land is held by the National Trust but the property is presently a private hotel and no public rights of way exist. The lack of public access means that this excellent example of a late 18th century Palladian landscape remains mainly hidden from public view, although the hotel does hold periodic open days.

*The Outer Park (eastern section - Upper and Lower Abbots Hill)*

- 6.2.30 The outer park to the east was added in the 19th century and is divided from the inner park by fencing and tree belts; the easternmost portion of this area is now public playing fields, the western section became Aylesbury Park Golf Course in 1995. This section of the outer park encompasses what used to be Upper and Lower Abbots Hill; the tree belt along the southern perimeter of this area is recognisably part of the extended parkland landscape, as is a much denuded avenue of trees within the area of public sports pitches.
- 6.2.31 The area of public sports pitches has clearly been levelled to create the playing surfaces cutting through medieval ridge and furrow, which can clearly be seen in section along the southern boundary. Although lying within the registered area of the parkland at Hartwell, this section cannot be attributed the same value as Hartwell House and the inner park on the basis of design, historic association, quality and survival.

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<sup>51</sup> Wheeler, R., (2012), *Hartwell: Statement of significance*.

- 6.2.32 Views to the south are blocked by the tree belt along the A418 while to the west and the east hedges compartmentalising the golf course block all views. The public sports pitches are fully open to the public and are also crossed by a number of public rights of way. The sports pitches now have an open view towards the newly created residential area of Coldharbour on the southern margin of Aylesbury and beyond that to central Aylesbury.
- 6.2.33 Apart from the tree belts to the south and west there is little evidence for any formal design within the section of the park that is now the Aylesbury Park Golf Course. An exception to this is part of the north and north-western sections of the golf course that lie in the original outer park alongside the avenue.
- 6.2.34 The golf course is compartmentalised by boundary hedging and is completely hidden from the public sports pitches to the east and the inner park to the west by hedges and tree planting. There is likewise no view in or out of the golf course to the south where there is tree planting along the A418. There are views towards Lower Hartwell from the middle section of the golf course. The majority of the golf course cannot be accessed except as a member of Aylesbury Park Golf Club, although a public right of way links Aylesbury to the east with Lower Hartwell to the west across its centre and a second public right of way allows limited access into the northern section of the course and the former parkland in this area.

#### *The Outer Park (northern section) and Avenue*

- 6.2.35 The outer park and avenue through Locke's Field to the north of Hartwell House formed part of both the earlier 18th century formal garden landscape at Hartwell and the later 18th century naturalised parkland landscape. The avenue is flanked to each side by a double row of trees, many of which in Locke's Field have recently been partly replanted. The avenue begins approximately 75m to the north of Hartwell House, extends for approximately 200m within the inner park and for at least another 1.75km northwards within the outer park.
- 6.2.36 Approximately 1.2 km north of Hartwell House the avenue kinks slightly onto a northward orientation to align with the Lee family's water-mill at Haydon Mill and beyond that with the location of their former residence and associated village at Quarrendon. The intervening hedged boundaries as well as the undulating terrain now block any direct link between Hartwell House and Haydon Mill. Within the outer park the avenue traverses a predominantly pastoral landscape that contains some surviving elements of medieval ridge and furrow; part of the avenue also runs through the northern section of Aylesbury Park Golf Course. Mature trees populate the avenue in the northern section which is aligned on Haydon Mill; to the south of this many of the trees have now been replanted.
- 6.2.37 The avenue is contained entirely within the Grade II\* RPG and the conservation area at Hartwell. The principal value of this section of the parkland lies in its incorporation into the designed landscape that provides the wider setting for Hartwell House. The avenue was furthermore designed to link what was in the early 18th century the Lee family's new residence at Hartwell with their former residence at Quarrendon.

- 6.2.38 This historic visual link to Quarrendon has now effectively been severed beyond the northern end of the avenue by modern development of Aylesbury's southern suburbs. A pylon sits squarely in the centre of the view along the avenue from Hartwell House, although it is no longer visible from the edge of the inner park pale which lies in a dip. This pylon is noticeable, but does not depreciate any understanding or enjoyment of how the avenue relates to its surroundings and the house.
- 6.2.39 The avenue forms a crucial element in the way that the inner park and house at Hartwell was designed to associate with its surroundings; the avenue provides one of the principal views from Hartwell House and the inner park and linked these with the Lee family's past. The avenue remains within a predominantly pastoral landscape. Public access to move along the avenue is presently not possible, with views along it being only publicly accessible from two footpaths that cross the line of the avenue.

### *The A418 corridor*

- 6.2.40 The A418 follows the line of the old road from Oxford via Thame to Aylesbury. This route was probably in existence in the medieval period and may even represent the line of an earlier route. Presently the A418 forms the southern perimeter of the parkland at Hartwell; planting of ornamental trees on the south side of the road coupled with the plantings within the southern edge of the parkland effectively makes the road an avenue that follows the parkland perimeter. This corridor and the buildings that lie along its southern edge have been incorporated into the conservation area at Hartwell.
- 6.2.41 The perimeter of the parkland is delimited by a stone wall constructed in the 19th century during the extension of the Hartwell parkland eastwards. The 18th century main entrance to the parkland at Hartwell lies on the A418 and is marked by the Grade II listed rusticated arch (potentially a Gibbs design, which was moved to this location when the parkland was recreated as naturalised parkland in the later 18th century) and the late 18th century Grade II listed entrance lodge.
- 6.2.42 South of the A418, the landscape is predominantly open and agricultural. A low linear bank extending southward on the opposite side of the A418 to the 18th century entrance to Hartwell hints that an avenue may have extended southwards towards Stoke Mandeville. A number of Victorian or early Edwardian villa style houses lie on the southern side of the A418: one of these, Glebe House (SMA044), is Grade II listed. These villa style buildings are all set within grounds divorced from the road by high walls, fences and tree belts.
- 6.2.43 The A418 is one of the busiest routes into Aylesbury and is characterised by an almost constant flow of road traffic, most of it moving too fast to have anything but a glimpse of the park gates and the land to the south. The A418 corridor does not for the main part add to the character and significance of the parkland and house at Hartwell. The exception to this is the entrance drive opening onto the A418 with its rusticated arch and entrance lodge. This entrance is presently crowded in by the road and any appreciation of it is further detrimentally affected by traffic.

### *Eythrope Park (SMA070)*

- 6.2.44 The asset comprises of the Grade II RPG at Eythrope.



- 6.2.45 A parkland at Eythrope was first established in the mid-18th century by Sir William Stanhope based around the theme of sham ruins and turreted buildings that were then fashionable. Stanhope's house at Eythrope was demolished in 1810-11 and only two of Stanhope's parkland structures survive: a grotto by the lake and the bridge over the River Thame; both of these are Grade II listed. The lake was also a feature established by Sir William Stanhope.
- 6.2.46 In 1875 the Eythrope estate was purchased (following their acquisition of the neighbouring Waddesdon Park in 1874) by the leading banking family of their period, the Rothschildes. Ferdinand Rothschild gave Eythrope to his sister Alice and it was she who developed the parkland and kitchen gardens that immediately surround the house that she established as a pavilion and day retreat in 1876. This pavilion is Grade II listed.
- 6.2.47 The house and ornamental gardens are situated on lower lying ground adjacent to the River Thame on the south side of a low ridge that extends northwards and on which the parkland at Waddesdon is also situated. The principal entrance drive enters the parkland from Hill Lane approximately 2km to the north-east of Eythrope Pavilion and follows the top of the ridge before curving down the south facing hill side to approach the house. This driveway is flanked by avenue trees, but for most of its length passes through what can broadly be described as an agricultural landscape, predominantly pasture. A second entrance drive approaches the house from the south, commencing at the village of Stone.
- 6.2.48 The key views and perambulations within the parkland are those that extend from Eythrope Pavilion to the south, south-east and south-west across Alice Rothschildes' ornamental and kitchen gardens and over Stanhope's lake towards the River Thame and the deserted medieval village earthworks of Eythrope (SMA071).
- 6.2.49 Views to and from the northern edge of the parkland appear to have been incorporated into the parkland designed for William Stanhope before 1750 with two circular features depicted on Bermingham's map of 1737<sup>52</sup>, including one near what is now Coney Hill Farm and another possibly at Fox Covert. The circular feature near Coney Hill Farm still survives as a hedged enclosure.
- 6.2.50 The principal attribution of value to this asset is in its sections of carefully designed landscape and associated listed structures. Principally this is now focussed in the area to the south of Eythrope Pavilion and incorporates Stanhope's lake and Alice Rothschildes' ornamental gardens, kitchen garden and circular walks. The key views to and from the pavilion are clearly in these southerly facing aspects looking towards the River Thame and beyond that to the village of Stone.
- 6.2.51 Very little, if any, formally laid out parkland is, however, now present on the north facing slope with its views towards Quainton. The northern and north-western section of the park is by contrast principally agricultural in character.

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<sup>52</sup> Bermingham, J., (1737), *A Survey of Etherup in the County of Buckinghamshire*.



- 6.2.52 Excellent views can be had northward from the northern edge of the parkland towards Quainton although this is only publically accessible from the footpath climbing the ridge from Upper Cranwell Farm via Coney Hill Farm. Glimpses of this view can also be made through gaps in the hedges bordering the access land leading to Hill Road.

## 6.3 Important hedgerows

- 6.3.1 Ten hedgerows (SMA002, SMA005, SMA008, SMA014, SMA019, SMA020, SMA036, SMA037, SMA068 and SMA094) that qualify as being historically important under the archaeology and history criteria of the Hedgerow Regulations 1997<sup>53</sup> lie within or extend into the land required, temporarily or permanently, for construction of the Proposed Scheme.

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<sup>53</sup> *The Hedgerows Regulations 1997 Statutory Instrument 1160*, HMSO.

## 7 Archaeological character

### 7.1 Introduction

- 7.1.1 To determine the archaeological potential for the study area, it was sub-divided into archaeological character areas. These archaeological character areas are derived from a consideration of the current topography, geology and current land use of the area.
- 7.1.2 From these broad character areas, the landscape was further subdivided into archaeological sub-zones (ASZ), which have allowed for a more in-depth understanding of the archaeological potential of the study area. The study area has been sub-divided into 31 ASZ. Although initially defined and characterised by current land use, a number of additional factors have determined the potential of these sub-zones to contain archaeological remains of significance. These factors include topography, geology, historic character and distribution of known archaeological finds, sites and assets.

### 7.2 Character areas

- 7.2.1 In terms of broad archaeological character zones, the study area is bounded to the south-east by the Chiltern scarp and straddles in turn northwards the Icknield/Greensand Belt, the Kimmeridge Belt, Thame Valley and the southern edge of the Aylesbury Vale Claylands.

#### Archaeological Character Area 1: Icknield/Greensand Belt

- 7.2.2 The Greensand is identified in the Solent Thames Archaeological Research Framework<sup>54</sup> as having seen relatively intensive human activity from at least the Mesolithic (circa 10,000 BC – 4,000 BC) period and probably from the Palaeolithic (circa 500,000 BC – 10,000 BC) through to the post-medieval (AD 1540 – AD 1900) period.
- 7.2.3 The greensand/Icknield belt is a relatively fertile and well drained area with easy access to the resources of the Chiltern plateau to the south and east and the pasture/meadow lands of the Thame Valley to the north and east. Within this belt the route passes through the parishes of Ellesborough, Stoke Mandeville and Stone with Bishopstone. The parish of Ellesborough straddles the Chalk of the Chiltern scarp and the Greensand bench as do many of the other parishes at the foot of the scarp including Great and Little Kimble to the south and Halton, Aston Clinton and Buckland to the north.
- 7.2.4 The underlying geology in the Stoke Mandeville and Bishopstone areas primarily comprises Gault Clays and Upper Greensand of Cretaceous date overlying Jurassic limestones and sandstones of Purbeck and Portland Groups, which outcrop in the valley sides of tributaries of the River Thame feeding between Walton Court and

<sup>54</sup> Oxford Archaeology and Buckinghamshire County Council et al., (Ongoing), Solent Thames Research Framework: A framework for Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire, Hampshire and the Isle of Wight.

Sedrup. Drift deposits of Head and Alluvium are present within the tributary valley that the route follows between Walton Court and Bishopstone.

- 7.2.5 The route broadly follows the course of a shallow valley that drains north and east from the Greensand bench to the River Thame. The village of Bishopstone and hamlet of Sedrup stand on higher ground on the southern edge of this shallow valley while Stoke Mandeville and the southern outskirts of Aylesbury, including Walton Court, occupy slightly higher ground on the northern edge of the same valley.
- 7.2.6 Settlement evidence of all periods from the Neolithic period onwards is likely to have been established on the upper slopes overlooking the shallow valley through which the route passes and especially on the northern side where the slopes have a southerly aspect. This appears to be confirmed by the presence of the probable Iron Age or Romano-British site (SMA004) on the slope above the demolished St Mary's Church at Stoke Mandeville and the extensive evidence for later prehistoric activity onwards from south of Stoke Mandeville (SMA027) and at Walton Court (SMA035). Colonisation of the lower lying ground is also possible with a Romano-British site on Risborough Road (SMA009). A ridge of slightly higher ground within the low lying area between Walton Court and Bishopstone (SMA034) has also been identified as having settlement activity of later prehistoric potentially through to early medieval date concentrated on it.
- 7.2.7 In the medieval period moated sites were established along the headwaters of the Bear Brook. These include at those Stoke House (SMA006), near Brook Cottage (SMA013), at Old Moat Farm (SMA022) and Hall End (SMA023). Once again the primary focus of settlement activity in this period appears to be higher up the slopes at Stoke Mandeville (SMA011), Walton Court (SMA032) and Bishopstone (SMA039).

## Archaeological Character Area 2: Kimmeridge Belt (South Of Thame Valley)

- 7.2.8 At Hartwell the route passes over Kimmeridge Clay which is overlain in part by Head deposits of Pleistocene age and Holocene alluvium associated with the River Thame and its tributaries. The River Thame drains north and west towards the River Thames.
- 7.2.9 The Portland and Purbeck groups form a ridge which roughly parallels the route to the south and west from near Bishopstone to Eythrope and Waddesdon. The route follows the lower ground between this ridge and the north-western outskirts of Aylesbury.
- 7.2.10 Pleistocene drift deposits of Terrace Gravels and Head Deposits also overlie the Kimmeridge Clay immediately to the south-west of Walton Court. The exact provenance of these gravels within the established system of Terrace Deposits for the River Thames and its tributaries remains uncertain. Pleistocene faunal remains have been recovered from these Terrace Gravels at Locke's Pit (SMA042) and it is possible that associated buried land surfaces could survive within them.
- 7.2.11 Settlement evidence of all periods from the Neolithic period onwards is likely to have been established on the upper slopes overlooking the flood plain of the tributaries

feeding north to the River Thame, especially on the slopes with southerly aspects between Walton Court and Coldharbour. This will particularly be the case in areas underlain by Terrace Gravels which tend to have more easily worked and free draining soils. This has been demonstrated by excavated evidence from Ellen Road (SMA055) and Coldharbour (SMA058).

- 7.2.12 A band of alluvium follows the line of a brook extending from Lower Hartwell north-east towards Coldharbour Farm. The deposition of alluvium within the valley floor and possibly colluvium on the lower slopes of the valley sides will have protected buried archaeology from later agricultural and developmental processes. It is also likely that palaeoenvironmental sequences charting the ecological history of the Thame Valley and its tributaries through the Holocene will be preserved within the alluvial sequence. There is also a strong likelihood that archaeological deposits in the valley floor may include waterlogged remains that preserve organic materials such as wood and leather.

### Archaeological Character Area 3: Thame Valley

- 7.2.13 North of Hartwell the route crosses the valley of the River Thame which runs from north-east to south-west. The valley contains alluvium of Holocene date and outcrops of Pleistocene Terrace Gravels are present near Haydon Mill and Eythrope. Head deposits are also present on the northern flanks of Waddon Hill, at Eythrope and to the south of Putlowes.
- 7.2.14 Palaeolithic remains could be present within the terrace gravels and Head deposits which can be found within the valleys of the River Thame and its tributary systems.
- 7.2.15 It is likely that the resources of the Thame Valley would have been utilised from earlier prehistory onwards, although occupation within the floodplain proper is unlikely. The flood plain of the River Thame retains extensive areas of meadowland that have probably been in use for grazing and hay making since at least the medieval period.
- 7.2.16 The deposition of alluvium within the valley floor and possibly colluvium on the lower slopes of the valley sides will have protected buried archaeology from later agricultural and developmental processes. It is also likely that palaeoenvironmental sequences charting the ecological history of the Thame Valley through the Holocene may be preserved within the alluvial sequence. There is also a strong likelihood that archaeological deposits in the valley floor may include waterlogged remains that preserve organic materials such as wood and leather.
- 7.2.17 Although permanent settlement is unlikely to have been established within the flood plain, there remains the possibility that buried archaeology will be present related to the activities undertaken within the valley floor to exploit its resources. This could include evidence for river crossings: boats, ritual deposition, fisheries, field systems and trackways.
- 7.2.18 Settlement evidence of all periods is likely to have been established on the upper slopes overlooking the flood plain especially on the south facing slope to the north of the River Thame. Evidence from Berryfields and Aylesbury Vale Parkway (SMA077)

confirms that there appears to be a relatively dense archaeological activity on this valley side. The investigations here have also identified timbers within the valley floor that are possibly part of Romano-British bridge across the River Thames.

### **Archaeological Character Area 4: Junction of Kimmeridge Belt and Aylesbury Vale Claylands (north of the River Thames)**

- 7.2.19 North of the River Thames the route from the Kimmeridge Belt onto the claylands of the Vale of Aylesbury near Putlowes. The Aylesbury Vale claylands are Oxford and Ampthill clays of Jurassic age. North of Putlowes and extending towards Fleet Marston Farm the clays are overlain by glacial Till. A tributary of the River Thames extends north past Putlowes and Fleet Marston where alluvium is present.
- 7.2.20 This junction of geologies appears to be an important focus of human activity from at least the Roman period and probably earlier. This area lies between the Thames Valley to the south with its riparian resources and meadowland and the claylands of the Vale of Aylesbury to the north which has historically had a suite of resources including pasture and woodland. The southern edge of the ACA forms a south facing slope on relatively well drained and easily tilled soils overlooking the Thames Valley. Settlement evidence from at least the Iron Age through to the medieval periods has been identified within this zone overlooking the Thames Valley; this includes evidence for Iron Age (and perhaps Bronze Age) activity at Berryfields (SMA077), a Romano-British small town at Fleet Marston (SMA074) and the deserted medieval settlements of Eythrope (SMA071), Fleet Marston (SMA090), Putlowes (SMA088) and Quarrendon (SMA078).

## **7.3 Archaeological sub-zones**

- 7.3.1 The ASZ are presented in Table 1 from south to north. An indication of archaeological potential for each sub-zone provided.

Table 1: Archaeological sub zones

Number	Name	Topography	Geology/soils	Modern land use	Historic landscape character	Archaeology
1	Stoke House	Gently rising south facing slope above valley containing modified streams	Undifferentiated Gault and Greensand	Predominantly arable	Modified enclosure with system of moats around Stoke House	Adjacent to a probable deserted medieval village and manorial centre around demolished church of St Mary in the valley floor. South facing slope over water course is a good potential location for prehistoric and Romano-British activity and geophysics appears to confirm this (SMA004).
2	St Mary's Church	Valley floor at confluence of modified streams/leats	Undifferentiated Gault and Greensand	Predominantly pasture around the church enclosure with arable to the east of Mill House Farm	Modified enclosure with church enclosure	Demolished remains of church of at least 11th century date, which very possibly stands on the site of an older foundation. Church may lie next to a manor house marked on enclosure map and within an Enclosure that was used for internment up to 1908. Very likely to be associated village evidence and mill(s) adjacent to leats (SMA003).
3	Old Risborough Road	Slightly rising ground with north and north-easterly aspect	Undifferentiated Gault and Greensand	Predominantly recent ribbon development with paddocks and gardens	Former historic routeway within parliamentary enclosure	Evaluation has indicated the presence of Romano-British remains (possibly part of a field system) (SMA009). Probable disturbance within building plots.
4	North facing tributary streamside (Stoke Mandeville)	Slightly rising ground trending to a mainly northerly aspect	Undifferentiated Gault and Greensand	Predominantly arable	Modified parliamentary enclosure	Scattered farmsteads on higher ground but no known archaeological sites. This may be a product of the lack of archaeological investigation.
5	Paddocks south of Stoke	Gently rising ground with southerly	Undifferentiated Gault and Greensand overlain by	Predominantly	Early post-medieval enclosure for horticulture,	South facing aspect above watercourse makes this a good

Number	Name	Topography	Geology/soils	Modern land use	Historic landscape character	Archaeology
	Mandeville	aspect overlooking stream	alluvium in valley floor to western extent	pasture	pasture and orchards	location for prehistoric and/or Romano-British activity. Medieval village earthworks visible (SMA010).
6	Stoke Mandeville Historic Core	Gently rising ground with southerly aspect	Undifferentiated Gault and Greensand	Modern and historic settlement of Stoke Mandeville	Historic settlement	Shifted focus of settlement activity at Stoke Mandeville (SMA011). The shift likely occurred in the later medieval period. South facing aspect good potential area for archaeological activity but likely disturbed by foundations.
7	Stoke Mandeville (Lower Road)	Gently rising ground with southerly aspect	Undifferentiated Gault and Greensand	Modern and historic settlement of Stoke Mandeville	Historic settlement and relatively recent ribbon development with associated gardens/paddocks	Shifted focus of settlement activity at Stoke Mandeville. The shift likely occurred in the later medieval period. South facing aspect good potential location for activity pre-dating the current village, but likely disturbed by some building foundations.
8	South facing tributary streamside at Brook and Moat Farms	Gently rising ground with southerly aspect overlooking watercourse	Undifferentiated Gault and Greensand overlain by alluvium in valley floor	Mixture of arable with pasture	Early post-medieval enclosure around farmsteads with modified parliamentary enclosure to west	Moated sites at Brook Farm (SMA013), Old Moat Farm (SMA022) and Hall End (SMA023). South facing aspect over watercourse is also typical for prehistoric/Romano-British activity with numerous finds of most periods reported from close by (SMA027).
9	Railway corridor	Railway crossing shallow valley form	Undifferentiated Gault and Greensand	Disused railway	Disused railway	Any archaeology likely removed by railway (SMA017) construction.
10	South facing tributary streamside south of Walton Court	Gently rising ground with southerly aspect overlooking	Gault Formation with alluvium in valley floor	Predominantly arable with copse at western	Modified parliamentary enclosure	Southerly aspect over watercourse good location for prehistoric/Romano-British activity.

Number	Name	Topography	Geology/soils	Modern land use	Historic landscape character	Archaeology
		modified watercourse		extent		Known prehistoric and Romano-British sites in Walton Court SMA035) and at Stoke Mandeville Hospital (SMA027). Cartographic evidence for an early bridge (SMA038).
11	North facing tributary streamside (Standalls Farm)	Slightly rising ground trending to mainly northerly aspect	Gault Formation	Predominantly arable	Modified parliamentary enclosure	Scattered farmsteads on higher ground including Standalls Farm (SMA030) and possible Saxon burial mound on crest of ridge called Tetlow (SMA029). Hill crest also good potential location for Bronze Age round barrows and Mesolithic/Early Neolithic exploitation of valley system. Well preserved ridge and furrow around Standalls Farm (SMA031).
12	Walton Court	Gentle slope tending to southerly aspect	Gault Formation to east with Portland stone and sands descending onto Kimmeridge Formations to west. Kimmeridge Formation is capped by alluvium in three tributary systems of the River Thames. Some exposures of gravel terrace deposits in association with this headwater system	Modern residential development	Historic settlement at Walton and associated field systems	Extensive archaeological sites throughout this zone at Walton Court, Walton Court School (SMA035) and Ellen Road (SMA055). Majority of this archaeology now under or removed by recent development.



Number	Name	Topography	Geology/soils	Modern land use	Historic landscape character	Archaeology
13	Between Walton Court and Bishopstone	Low Ridge between watercourses	Purbeck and Portland formations capped by head deposits on higher ground and alluvium within valley systems	Predominantly arable	Modified parliamentary enclosure with some amalgamated prairie fields	Slightly higher ground overlooking confluence of small tributaries makes this prime location for prehistoric/Romano-British activity. Extensive finds made during field walking including late upper Palaeolithic and Mesolithic worked flints. Large and probably multi-period settlement evidence indicated by geophysical survey (SMAo34).
14	Sedrup	Crest line of low ridge with northerly aspect	Portland and Purbeck formations	Predominantly pasture with some arable	Early enclosures around historic hamlet of Sedrup and good survival of ridge and furrow	Medieval hamlet (SMAo41) and associated ridge and furrow (SMAo46 and SMAo47) with some quarrying. Anglo-Saxon cemetery reported in vicinity. Good potential location for Mesolithic and early Neolithic exploitation of valley system and Bronze Age round barrows.
15	Valley north of Sedrup	Relatively flat	Portland and Purbeck formations overlain by alluvium within valley floor	Predominantly pasture	Modified post-medieval enclosure	Probable Romano-British cemetery recorded from Locke's Pit (SMAo42) may extend into this area. Uncertain how far south terrace deposits (with Palaeolithic faunal remains) may extend.
16	Locke's Pit	Former Quarry	Kimmeridge Clay overlain by Head, terrace gravels and alluvium	Former quarry reverted to isolated residence	Former quarry and brickworks	Palaeolithic faunal remains and likely Romano-British cemetery identified during clay extraction. Uncertain to what extent Palaeolithic remains have been truncated, but later remains have probably been removed.

Number	Name	Topography	Geology/soils	Modern land use	Historic landscape character	Archaeology
17	Hartwell inner park	Gentle slope with northerly aspect	Exposures of Portland and Purbeck formations to south descending onto Kimmeridge Clay overlain by Head	18th and 19th century landscape park around Hartwell House	Late 17th and 18th century landscape park around Hartwell House	Anglo-Saxon and Roman remains reported from Hartwell area and probability of medieval settlement near St Mary's Church. Uncertain whether Head deposits may contain Palaeolithic remains or whether terrace deposits extend this far south.
18	Aylesbury golf course	Gentle undulations incised by tributary streams of the River Thame	Principally Kimmeridge Clay capped by head deposits in southern section and alluvium within valley floor. Kimmeridge Clay in northern section	Golf Course	Agricultural land incorporated as parkland extension in late 19th century. Very northern section takes in a section of the Hartwell Avenue	Anglo-Saxon and Romano-British remains reported from Hartwell area and known medieval settlement between the watercourses in the central section of the golf course (SMAo54). This settlement may include a mill and kiln site. In eastern section there may be documentary evidence for a windmill (Abbynts Mill (SMAo66)). Low ridge and furrow is also visible in some sections. Uncertain whether Head deposits may contain Palaeolithic remains or whether terrace deposits extend this far south.
19	Coldharbour playing fields	Flat playing fields	Kimmeridge Clay overlain in part by head deposits and terrace gravels	Playing fields	Agricultural land incorporated as parkland extension in late 19th century	Possibility of Palaeolithic remains within terrace gravels (and potentially Head deposits). Fieldwalking here (SMAo59), and elsewhere in Coldharbour (SMAo58) recorded prehistoric and medieval activity. Ridge and furrow has been truncated by levelling of this area to make sports pitches and it is likely that earlier deposits

Number	Name	Topography	Geology/soils	Modern land use	Historic landscape character	Archaeology
						will also be compromised .
20	Upper and Lower Hartwell	Trending to north facing slope from higher ground at Stone to the south	Stepping down from Purbeck formation, through Portland formation and onto Kimmeridge Clay. Overlain by Head deposits and alluvium in valley floor	Predominantly pasture around historic hamlets of Upper and Lower Hartwell	Early post-medieval enclosure around historic settlements of Lower and Upper Hartwell	Anglo-Saxon and Romano-British remains reported from Hartwell area. Historic hamlets of Lower (SMAo53) and Upper Hartwell (SMAo52) with good survival of ridge and furrow, especially around Lower Hartwell Farm (SMAo67).
21	Hartwell avenue	Shallow valley form with principal long slope with south-easterly aspect to north of watercourse	Kimmeridge Clay overlain by alluvium in valley floor	Predominantly pasture	Early enclosure with late 17th/early 18th century parkland avenue	Anglo-Saxon and Romano-British remains reported from Hartwell area. Historic hamlets of Lower (SMAo53) and Upper Hartwell (SMAo52) with good survival of ridge and furrow, especially around Lower Hartwell Farm (SMAo67). Second medieval settlement (SMAo62) suspected to encroach into northern section of avenue. Long southerly aspect also makes this a likely locality for earlier activity.
22	Coldharbour	Succession of low ridges at confluence of tributary streams with River Thame	Kimmeridge Clay capped in lower areas by head deposits and alluvium	Modern suburbs of Aylesbury	Historic farmsteads at Coldharbour and Haydon Mill with associated agricultural systems	Confluence of watercourses typical location for prehistoric to early medieval activity. Neolithic to early Medieval activity identified during archaeological investigations (SMAo58). Any archaeology now likely buried or removed by recent development.
23	Whaddon Hill	Low knoll with gentle slopes	Succession from Purbeck formation on top through Portland formation and on to Kimmeridge Clay	Predominantly arable land around historic farmstead	Modified parliamentary enclosure with some field amalgamation	Low rise with well drained soils overlooking Thame Valley is excellent potential location for activity of prehistoric and later

Number	Name	Topography	Geology/soils	Modern land use	Historic landscape character	Archaeology
						date.
24	Thame Valley quarry	Flat valley floor	Kimmeridge Clay overlain by cap of Terrace Gravel in turn overlain by alluvium	Predominantly pasture with area that was formerly used for gravel extraction now becoming reclaimed to pasture	Riverside meadows	Terrace gravels may contain Palaeolithic remains and exposure of gravels beside a river would also be typical location for prehistoric and later activity. Much of the area has been quarried. Potential for palaeo-environmental remains.
25	Haydon Mill	Gentle slope with northerly aspect	Kimmeridge Clay capped by alluvium in valley floor	17th - 18th century parkland avenue incorporated into pasture	Early enclosure with 17th – 18th century parkland avenue	North facing slope makes this relatively unlikely area for archaeological activity but valley floor contains a mill (SMAo64) that stands in the likely location of a medieval predecessor.
26	Bear Brook corridor	Flat floodplain between modified water courses	Alluvium over Kimmeridge Clay and terrace gravels	Flood plain pasture	Floodplain meadow	Terrace gravels may contain Palaeolithic remains and alluvium has palaeoenvironmental potential.
27	River Thame floodplain	Flat floodplain	Alluvium over terrace gravels with some head deposits in turn overlying Kimmeridge Clay	Flood plain pasture	Floodplain meadow	Terrace gravels may contain Palaeolithic remains and alluvium has palaeoenvironmental potential. Geophysics shows clear palaeochannels (see Appendix CH-004-011). Possibility of river crossing(s).
28	Berryfields/Billingsfield	Low ridge with slopes trending to southerly aspect at confluence of tributary with River Thame	Kimmeridge Clay overlain in part by terrace gravel and with alluvium in lower lying areas	Undergoing development with extensive associated archaeological works	Modified parliamentary enclosure	Typical location for prehistoric and later activity overlooking confluence of water courses. Archaeological investigations (SMAo77) have identified part of the hinterland of a Romano-British small town at Fleet Marston; what may be a Romano-British bridge

Number	Name	Topography	Geology/soils	Modern land use	Historic landscape character	Archaeology
						over the River Thames and evidence for later prehistoric settlements.
29	Fleet Marston (Wayside Farm)	Low knoll overlooking confluence of tributary stream with River Thames	Kimmeridge Clay over Ampthill Clay (part of Oxford Clay)	Pasture surrounding isolated historic church enclosure	Modified parliamentary enclosure	Isolated church (SMA085) enclosure is likely to have associated buried settlement remains. Geophysical survey and evaluation supports this and has also identified earlier activity (SMA090).
30	Fleet Marston Romano-British small town	Low, broad knoll overlooking confluence of tributary with the River Thames	Southern half Kimmeridge Clay with cap of Till in centre of the knoll. North of this Ampthill (Oxford) Clay capped by head deposits	Predominantly arable prairie fields with some pasture near Putlowes	Modified parliamentary enclosure with much field amalgamation	Extensive evidence to indicate the presence of a small Romano-British town (SMA074) at the junction of Akeman Street (SMA076) with a road (SMA082 and SMA083) leading north to the cult centre at Thornborough. Finds suggest activity throughout Roman period and hints at Late Iron Age and earlier Saxon activity as well.
31	Lower slopes of Sheepcote and Coney Hills	Gentle slopes with northerly aspect	Ampthill (Oxford) Clay	Mixture of arable on lower ground with pasture on higher slopes	Modified parliamentary enclosure around isolated farmsteads at Cranwell, Lower Cranwell, Upper Cranwell and Sheepcote Hill Farms	The area lies on the periphery of a Romano-British small town at Fleet Marston (SMA074) and a road may extend south from the settlement towards Eythrope (SMA075). Moated site(s) likely identified at Upper Cranwell Farm..

## 8 Analysis and research potential

### 8.1 Analysis of understanding

8.1.1 The area around Aylesbury as a high archaeological potential, especially flanking the River Thames and its tributaries (such as the valley that the route follows between Stoke Mandeville and Hartwell). The following archaeological sites have been identified as lying within the land required for construction of the Proposed Scheme:

- the earliest material recovered comprises Palaeolithic faunal remains from Locke's Pit (SMA042) near Hartwell. The date of this material, and indeed the terrace sequences as a whole associated with the River Thames, remain unclear;
- finds recovered during fieldwalking and geophysical survey (SMA034) suggest that there may have been a concentration of activity of late glacial through to Neolithic date within the shallow valley system that the land required for construction of the Proposed Scheme follows between Stoke Mandeville and Hartwell;
- probable later prehistoric settlement activity has been identified in the area between Walton Court and Aylesbury (SMA034). Here finds made during fieldwalking and the results of a geophysical survey (see Appendix CH-004-011) indicate the presence of a complex site that may be a palimpsest of occupations from late prehistoric through to early medieval date;
- a Romano-British small town is present at Fleet Marston (SMA074) and may have both later prehistoric origins and activity continuing into the early medieval period. As well as remains associated with its possible function as a civic and market hub it is likely that cemeteries will also be present, especially along the roads leading into the settlement;
- an early medieval site is present around the demolished St Mary's Church at Stoke Mandeville (SMA003). This site may itself lie in the location of an earlier Romano-British or late prehistoric site. The site may have been an important ecclesiastical holding and milling centre which developed into a medieval manor with associated village. The former church dates to at least the 12th century and its burial ground remained in active use through until 1907. Further medieval sites have also been identified at Hartwell (SMA054) and at Putlowes (SMA088); and
- at Hartwell (SMA050) the route crosses an important post-medieval designed landscape associated with Hartwell House. Hartwell Park is a Grade II\* RPG which lies within the Hartwell conservation area.

8.1.2 Apart from this area of parkland the landscape across which the route passes is predominantly one formed by parliamentary enclosure, although areas of early enclosure appear are present around the historic settlements at Stoke Mandeville (SMA011), Sedrup (SMA041) and Lower Hartwell (SMA053).

- 8.1.3 Glebe House (SMA044) a Grade II listed building adjacent to the A418 at Hartwell is an 1840s building, the original function of which is uncertain. The house belonged to a farmer in 1871 but may have had a different function when first built.
- 8.1.4 The Stoke Mandeville to Aylesbury area straddles the Icknield/Greensand Belt and lies between the Chiltern scarp to the south-east and the claylands of the Vale of Aylesbury to the north-east. The market town of Aylesbury lies at the heart of the study area and has recently witnessed and continues to witness significant development within it, its suburbs and immediate hinterland. This has resulted in a reasonable number of archaeological investigations that can form a solid basis to develop the archaeological baseline. The Icknield/Greensand Belt has long been recognised as being the most archaeologically sensitive areas of Buckinghamshire and has considerable archaeological potential from the Palaeolithic and onwards.

## 8.2 Research potential and priorities

- 8.2.1 The Proposed Scheme has the potential to increase the archaeological knowledge and understanding of the study area. Many research questions can best be formulated at either a scheme wide or at a county/multiple Community Forum Area level. These will draw heavily on the regional and period research frameworks which have been prepared with support from English Heritage<sup>55</sup>.
- 8.2.2 This section presents research questions which are specific to the heritage assets, either known or suspected, within this study area. Each research question is crossed referenced to the relevant ACA.
- 8.2.3 The research potential and priorities are considered on a chronological basis:
- is there palaeo-environmental information that will help to shed light on the Palaeolithic development of the landscape with particular emphasis on refining our understanding of the Terrace deposits associated with the River Thame and how these relate to the wider terrace system of the Upper and Middle Thames. Establishment of the date of the terrace deposits in which Palaeolithic faunal remains have been identified in the Hartwell area will be critical to this (ACAs 2-4);
  - can a deposit model for the deposition of alluvial sequences within the floodplain of the River Thame and its tributaries be developed in order to provide a chronology of environmental development during the Holocene? Can the deposit model be used to identify stages of widespread woodland clearance and subsequent regeneration (ACA3)?;
  - can the hypothesis that some modern routes onto the Chilterns have prehistoric origins be tested (ACA 1 and 2)?;
  - can the development and subsequent decline of the Romano-British small town at Fleet Marston (SMA074) be charted? Can it be clarified how the Roman road system developed here and whether there was a single crossing of

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<sup>55</sup> Oxford Archaeology and Buckinghamshire County Council et al., (Ongoing), Solent Thames Research Framework: A framework for Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire, Hampshire and the Isle of Wight.

the River Thame on the line of Akeman Street (SMA076) or multiple/shifting crossing points? Did the settlement at Fleet Marston develop from a Roman Conquest period fort (ACA3 and 4)?;

- what can be added to our knowledge about the planning of Romano-British roadside settlements, especially with regard to the regular square enclosures laid out along Akeman Street (SMA076) on the north-western periphery of the small town at Fleet Marston (SMA074)? Are these enclosures laid out to a particular Roman unit of measurement (ACA4)?;
- can any specialist activities be identified within the settlement at Fleet Marston (SMA074) such as industrial and/or market functions, civic/administrative buildings and religious/cult activities (ACA4)?;
- what insights into the Romano-British population at Fleet Marston (SMA074) can be had from a study of skeletal material recovered from any associated cemeteries (ACA4)?;
- can the hypothesis that some land divisions/estates established during (or even by) the Roman period may have formed the basis for the establishment of Middle Saxon estates be tested? The deserted medieval village and possible Saxon ecclesiastical estate centre around the demolished St Mary's Church at Stoke Mandeville (SMA003) offers potential to address this questions, as does the Romano-British small town at Fleet Marston (SMA074) (ACA1 and 4);
- is the site of the demolished St Mary's Church at Stoke Mandeville (SMA003) a focus of an early medieval ecclesiastical estate and milling centre? Is there a medieval manorial complex adjacent to the church and what other settlement features and industry is present (ACA1)?;
- can a detailed study of the population of Stoke Mandeville between the medieval (and possibly early medieval) and early modern periods be undertaken based on a study of skeletal material from the churchyard around the deserted medieval St Mary's Church (SMA003). Is there an opportunity to develop a local genetic model (ACA1)?;
- what are the dates and processes of medieval settlement establishment and subsequent decline/shrinkage at Stoke Mandeville (SMA003), Hartwell (SMA054 and 062) and Putlowes (SMA088? Can the development of open field agriculture with ridge and furrow at these settlements be dated with any certainty (ACA1, 2, 3 and 4)?; and
- why does Glebe House (SMA042) have so many unusual features, both internal and external? Is this really just a farmer's house as suggested by the 1871 census or did it have another function when first built in the 1840s (ACA2)?





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